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Japan

Official on U.S. Appeal Against Minivan Ruling

OW0708113392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—A Japanese auto industry official Friday rapped Big Three U.S. automakers' decision to appeal the U.S. International Trade Commission's [ITC] rejection of their claim that cheap Japanese minivan imports hurt the U.S. car industry.

The official said the decision is apparently aimed at eventually raising duties on imported minivans.

The official of a major Japanese automaker said the Court of International Trade in New York likely will not reverse the commission decision not to impose duties on the vehicles. Reversals have been rare in the past, he said on condition of anonymity.

"We cannot deny, however, that the Big Three move will put psychological pressure on Japanese minivan manufacturers," the official said.

General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler Corp. say Japanese minivans are being sold in the U.S. market at less than their home market prices, harming the U.S. auto industry.

The U.S. Commerce Department ruled in May that Toyota Motor Corp. and Mazda Motor Corp. were dumping minivans. But the ITC ruled on June 24 that Japanese minivan exports "do not displace sales of domestic products." The government department and the independent commission must agree for duties to be imposed.

The "Big Three" said Thursday they have filed notice of their intent to appeal the ITC ruling to the Court of International Trade. If the trade court rule reverses the commission decision, the ITC may appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Toyota says the "Big Three" hold 92 percent of the U.S. minivan market, while Japanese automakers have a share of only 7.9 percent.

Kato Comments on Emperor's Possible PRC Trip

OW0708091292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, AUG. 7 KYODO—Emperor Akihito will not be shackled with the "heavy burden" of addressing Japan's responsibility for World War II should he visit China later this year, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Friday.

The government has yet to start deliberations on what sort of statements the emperor will make, "but in any case, if he goes to China his majesty must not be given a heavy burden," Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Kato was responding to questions on whether Emperor Akihito would touch on Japan's war responsibility if Tokyo accepts China's invitation to visit during this year's 20th anniversary of normalized relations.

Statements by the imperial family regarding Japan's aggression in World War II have in the past sparked controversy both at home and in countries that suffered under the heavy-handed treatment of Japan's Imperial Army.

Conservative Japanese politicians have been adamant that the late Emperor Showa (Emperor Hirohito), whose role in the war can still spark heated debate in Japan, should not be portrayed as bearing responsibility for the war.

Meanwhile, some countries that bore the brunt of Japan's aggression have long sought an imperial apology.

During a tour of Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia last year, Emperor Akihito pledged that Japan would "never repeat the horrors of that most unfortunate war." He did not, however, offer an explicit apology.

In 1990 Emperor Akihito told South Korean President No Tae-u in Tokyo he felt the "deepest regret" for suffering endured by Koreans as a result of Japan's actions.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has said he would like the Emperor Akihito to visit Beijing in October.

But the premier is first seeking to quiet down opposition among conservative members of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Some of those members object to offering any apologies for the war.

Miyazawa To Decide on Emperor's China Visit

OW0708142892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Aug 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has agreed to leave the decision on the imperial visit to China this fall to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's discretion. This was the result from today's meeting of the LDP General Council.

The executive council met this afternoon to discuss the issue. Some members from the council opposed the emperor's visit to China because China is not a full-fledged democratic nation as seen by its human rights violations. They were concerned that the emperor's visit might be exploited politically by the Chinese Government.

But some members favored the visit. They said that the emperor's trips overseas are not unusual events, and that the government should use its discretion on deciding the issue, with the consent of the Japanese people.

After the discussion, which lasted about an hour and a half, General Council Chairman Koko Sato said that he would convey all of the opinions expressed to the prime minister. The council agreed to end debate on the issue, and has decided to leave the final decision in Prime Minister Miyazawa's hands.

Four top LDP officials, led by Secretary General Watanuki, then called on Prime Minister Miyazawa, and conveyed the party's decision—Mr. Miyazawa replied that he would make his decision on the issue after thorough consideration.

Mr. Miyazawa earlier said that he wanted to see the emperor's visit to China this year to mark the 20th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and China. Now that the LDP has ended debate, the focal point of public interest is likely to be shifted to the point when the prime minister will make his final decision on the issue.

In connection with this, a government source indicated this evening that Mr. Miyazawa may convey his decision to the LDP when leaders of the government and the LDP meet early next week.

Some Concerns Said Dispelled

OW0708143092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, AUG. 7 KYODO—The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Friday gave Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa a free hand to decide whether Emperor Akihito should pay a visit to China later this year, LDP sources said.

Some LDP members are critical of the visit, which would be part of events marking the 20th anniversary of restoration of diplomatic ties between Japan and China.

The LDP reached the decision on allowing Miyazawa to make the choice during in-house deliberations at the party's decision-making Executive Council, the sources said.

Later in the day, Miyazawa told party leaders that he will make a decision after giving the matter "careful consideration" and after "consulting with others."

LDP sources said it is expected that Miyazawa will formally convey his final decision to party leaders in the early part of next week.

Executive Council chairman Koko Sato concluded the hearing by noting that the various views on the advisability of an imperial visit to China have been sufficiently aired in the council.

Later in the day, Sato, LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watananuki, and Yoshio Mori, chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, met with Miyazawa to brief him on the outcome of the day's talks.

Miyazawa was quoted by sources as having in the meeting dispelled concerns voiced by some party members that the emperor might be scheduled to take part in memorial ceremonies in China relating to World War II and the events leading up to it.

Some parliamentarians have objected to the prospective imperial visit on the grounds that China might turn it into a politicized event.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato tackled those concerns earlier in the day when he told reporters the emperor should not be shackled with the "heavy burden" of addressing Japan's wartime responsibility should he visit China.

During Emperor Akihito's tour of Southeast Asia last fall, there were scattered calls for war compensation and more explicit and substantial apologies, but the trip was free of major disruptions.

Also Friday, a group of conservative legislators opposed to the emperor's visit to China held a press conference to announce that their petition drive had solicited 57 signatures from parliamentarians.

Later the group, led by LDP parliamentarian Seichi Eto, met with Kato to present the petition and to call for a postponement or outright cancellation of the prospective visit.

The group holds that the trip could have an impact on unsettled political issues, which would clash with the emperor's constitutionally limited role as symbol of the state and of the unity of Japanese people.

Its members also warn that China could use the visit in an attempt to gain political legitimacy amid international criticism of its human rights record, leading to criticism that Japan is insensitive to Beijing's human rights abuses.

Other potential snags are China's criticism of Japan's treatment of wartime history in school textbooks, Beijing's opposition to leading Japanese political figures paying respects to Japan's wartime leaders and other war dead at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, and a bilateral dispute over sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

Kato was said to have promised the group that he would convey their concerns to Miyazawa, but he told them his own view is that it is "a good time" for the emperor to visit China.

Russia's Poltoranin Questions Okinawa Bases

OW0608114192 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0935 GMT 6 Aug 92

[From "Evening News" program]

[Text] Visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin met the governor of Okinawa, Masahide Ota,

today and they agreed on accelerating Okinawa-Russia trade to deepen bilateral economic ties. He is the highest Russian official to visit the island.

The four-man Russian delegation was jointly led by Deputy Prime Minister Poltoranin and Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov. They called on Governor Ota at the prefectural government offices this afternoon.

At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Poltoranin touched on the U.S. base-related problems of Okinawa and questioned Governor Ota on whether he thought that U.S. bases occupying 11 percent of the prefecture is anachronistic. In response, Governor Ota said that while the Okinawa Government has been urging the U.S. Forces to return military facilities on the island, the U.S. Forces still think that it is difficult to drastically cut military strength on Okinawa due to unchanged military confrontation in Asia, such as North-South antagonism in Korea.

Deputy Prime Minister Poltoranin replied that the military threat of North Korea has disappeared since the former Soviet Union discontinued arms supply to that nation. He then proposed that Governor Ota strengthen economic ties between Russia and Okinawa with accelerated steel trade and technological exchange. Governor Ota had a positive response to Poltoranin's proposal.

After the meeting, the Russian delegation stopped by Oroku Underground Air Raid Shelter of the former Japanese Imperial Navy to observe scars of the Battle of Okinawa. They then returned to Tokyo by an evening flight.

Ministers Plan Visits Before Yeltsin Tour

OW0508231792 Tokyo KYODO in English 2247 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 6 KYODO—Japan and Russia will exchange visits by their foreign ministers to each other's capital before Russian President Boris Yeltsin comes to Tokyo in mid-September, government sources said Thursday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will go to Moscow in late August or early September, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will come to Japan around September 10, the sources said.

Watanabe and Kozyrev will lay the groundwork for Yeltsin's visit scheduled to start September 13, they said.

Tokyo To Resume Insurance on Exports to Russia

OW0708054492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0402 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Japan will resume short-term trade insurance on exports to Russia on August 20, a move which could boost bilateral trade, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Friday.

MITI has suspended short-term trade insurance on exports to Russia since January because of political and economic instability there.

Short-term trade insurance is applied to export deals [?set to] times. [Words indistinct] the bank, and is considering making the former Soviet trade bank now controlled by the Russian Government eligible for trade insurance as well, MITI officials said.

Tokyo Said Ready To Comply With UN Request

OW0708042892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—The United Nations is likely to formally request Japan to dispatch personnel for peacekeeping operations in Cambodia when the nation's second governmental fact-finding mission returns home in late August, government sources said Friday.

The government plans to send the second fact-finding mission to Cambodia next week.

Japan's new U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Law comes into effect on August 10.

Japan "cannot send (its personnel to Cambodia) unless they are prepared. The U.N. will consider this point," a government source said.

In a related development, Defense Agency chief Sohei Miyashita, at a news conference, signaled Japan's readiness to comply with a U.N. request for the dispatch of Japanese engineering troops to repair routes Nos. 2 and 3 in southern Cambodia.

U.N. sources in New York said July 31 that the U.N. will formally ask Japan to dispatch some 700 personnel, including members of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), for peacekeeping operations in Cambodia once the new Japanese law comes into force.

The government sources also said Japan's final decision on sending its personnel to Cambodia depends on the judgment of the United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia (UNTAC), particularly on whether the Khmer Rouge will comply with the Paris peace accords by disarming.

The disarmament process is part of the second phase of a cease-fire to be monitored by UNTAC under the accord.

The law authorizing the overseas dispatch of Japanese troops for U.N. peacekeeping activities passed through the Diet on June 15.

White Paper Reviews Situation in Asian Region

OW0708020592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0102 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Despite the end of the cold war, the military situation surrounding Japan has

not shown a major change, compared with that in Europe, the Defense Agency said in an annual paper released Friday.

The agency called for strengthening confidence-building measures in the Asian region to relax tensions.

The East-West confrontation ended following the collapse of the Soviet Union and "the possibility of a global-scale war has faded and the international community is groping for a new peaceful world order," said this year's white paper, the 18th of its kind.

The paper said, "Disputes repressed under the East-West confrontation have come to the surface and become tangible."

"Today in Europe a dramatic change has emerged, such as democratization of Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union."

It said, however, that the "security environment in this region (surrounding Japan) is different from that in Europe, and complicated."

No multilateral collective security system like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Warsaw Pact organization was established in the region, it said.

Also a regional security framework like the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has not been set up, the agency pointed out.

It is unlikely that a dramatic change will happen in Asian socialist countries, China, North Korea, and Vietnam, for the time being because those countries have histories different to those of Europe, and socialism in the countries is linked with their own nationalism, it said.

"The forces of the former Soviet Union in the Far East region have accumulated a modernized massive war potential and this makes the military situation around Japan unstable," it said.

"China, South Korea, and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been trying to build up military capability. It is hoped that favorable influences will prevail in the military situation in this region through moves for relaxation of tensions and building of relations of political confidence."

China has been trying to modernize its military equipment and strengthen its presence in the South China Sea but it is difficult for China to promptly modernize its defense because it is facing difficulties of inflation and a budget deficit, the paper said. North Korea is suspected of developing nuclear weapons and it is imperative to block such a move for the sake of stability in East Asia and prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it said.

Pyongyang is also suspected of developing a new type of missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometers, and if it succeeds in this, parts of western Japan will be within the range, the agency said.

Those developments in North Korea are factors of instability in the international society as a whole as well as in the areas near Japan, it said.

In Southeast Asia, factors of instability still exist, such as the territorial dispute over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, it said. China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei claim all or parts of the islands.

The presence of the U.S. forces is essential for peace in the Asia-Pacific region, the white paper said.

"Although various debates will emerge in the future about the formation of a new international order, Japan should adopt a policy of maintenance of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements," it said.

Japan and the United States should establish mutual confidence- building and cooperative relations by intensifying dialogue when changes in the international situation are dramatic, it said.

The government decided last December to review the 1991-1995 mid- term defense buildup program, estimated to cost 22.75 trillion yen at 1990 prices, following the dramatic change in the international situation, and the Defense Agency has been conducting reviews, it said.

The agency has been also studying Japan's defense capability from the medium- and long-term perspectives and that may lead to changes in the 1976 table which stipulates Japan's military strength, it said.

As for a law, enacted in June, to allow Self-Defense Force (SDF) personnel to join United Nations peacekeeping operations, the paper said the SDF's participation in such missions is compatible with the ideals of the Constitution.

"The SDF aims to contribute to Japan's international contribution by utilizing its accumulative ability, experience, and organized functions," it said.

"Some countries, while showing understanding of Japan's international contribution, urge caution in deploying the SDF overseas," it said.

"The government will make efforts to win the support and understanding of neighboring countries by explaining that the international peace cooperation law aims at cooperating with peacekeeping activities through requests of the U.N., and the SDF will contribute in this context."

"Japan's prosperity is dependent on world peace and the SDF's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations will greatly contribute to the peace and security of Japan," it said.

Financial Institutions Shift Emphasis to Asia

OW0508135392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 5 KYODO—An increasing number of Japanese financial institutions are aggressively moving into Asian countries while closing down unprofitable branches in other parts of the world, industry sources said Wednesday.

The sources said Japanese banks are seeing the value of their assets decline and bad loans surge after the collapse of the so-called "bubble economy" at home.

They are also under pressure to achieve the 8 percent capital-to-assets ratio by the end of next March as required by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Under such circumstances, the Japanese banks are apparently shifting their business emphasis from expanding overseas networks to increasing profitability at individual branches, the sources said.

They are closing unprofitable branches in Europe, the United States and in other regions, or pulling out Japanese staffers from overseas offices to let local staff run them.

Meanwhile, they are setting up joint ventures with local capital and opening up offices in Asian countries with rapidly growing economies, the sources said.

Nippon Trust Bank said it will close its branches in London and New York as early as September, and discontinue overseas operations.

Other recently closed overseas offices include Kyowa Saitama Bank's Dallas branch in the U.S., Daiwa Bank's Vancouver branch in Canada and its Panama branch, Hokkaido Takushoku Bank's Houston branch in the U.S., and Yasuda Trust and Banking Co.'s Bahrain branch.

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Sumitomo Bank, and Mitsubishi Bank withdrew Japanese staffers from their respective branches in Caracas, Venezuela, leaving local staff in charge.

Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co. and Toyo Trust and Banking Co. made the same move at their branches in Bahrain.

Officials of those banks said the move was for the sake of Japanese staffers' security, rather than a business strategy change.

Newly established joint financial ventures in Asia include one in Indonesia set up by Mitsubishi Bank, another in Singapore by Sumitomo Bank, and the Industrial Bank of Japan in Thailand.

New branches and offices include Mitsubishi Bank in Hong Kong, Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Co. in Seoul, and the Industrial Bank of Japan in Shanghai.

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank has opened a branch in Shanghai and a representative office in Amoi, China.

Fuji Bank and Sakura Bank are each planning to set up a representative office in Vietnam, according to the industry sources.

House of Councillors Elects Hara as President

OW0708031392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—The House of Councillors on Friday elected policeman-turned-politician Bunbei Hara of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] to be its 20th president as it opened a special Diet session.

The 79-year-old Hara succeeded Yuji Osada, also of the LDP, who retired.

During the plenary session, the upper hose also picked Misao Akagiri, 72, of the Social Democratic Party, as its vice president.

Hara received 236 votes in the 252-member chamber and Akagiri got 246 votes.

Both Hara and Akagiri are serving their fourth terms in the chamber.

Hara retired from the metropolitan police department in 1965 after a long police career which included a stint as superintendent general.

Miyazawa Requests Change of Election Day

OW0708042392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has asked the Home Affairs Ministry to consider holding elections for national and municipal assemblies on days other than Sundays to improve voter turnout, government sources said Friday.

The request followed the lowest ever voter turnout of 50.72 percent in the July 26 House of Councillors election.

Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa told a press conference after a Friday morning cabinet meeting that the ministry will decide on the issue after hearing the views of various parties.

Under the election law, there is no fixed rule on setting election dates, but all elections have been held on Sundays since a House of Representatives election was held on a Saturday in 1969.

Yamashita To Visit WWII Shrine Officially

OW0708133792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Health and Welfare Minister Tokuo Yamashita will be the only member of the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to visit Yasukuni shrine in his official capacity August 15, the 47th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

Eleven cabinet ministers in all will worship in a private capacity at the central Tokyo shrine dedicated to the souls of Japanese armed services personnel, according to a survey by KYODO News Service. Wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo and other Class-A war criminals are among those enshrined there.

Miyazawa has said he will not visit the shrine as the head of the Japanese Government, but is undecided about a private visit.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone raised an uproar domestically and overseas in 1985 when he became the first postwar prime minister to officially visit the shrine.

Since then, prime ministers have avoided worshiping at the shrine and its potential outcry, while a recent high court decision suggested Nakasone's 1985 visit may have violated constitutional provisions for the separation of state and religion.

In explaining his position, Yamashita said the prime minister and the foreign minister had to think about their positions in the world, but his situation is different.

Yamashita said he would worship at the shrine as a "public official, while International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo, and Defense Agency Chief Sohei Miyashita will not say if their visits will be official or private.

Watanabe, Kondo and Miyashita said, however, they would write "state minister" in the shrine's registry.

Justice Minister Takashi Tawara and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said they will make their visits private, while Tomoo Ie, head of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agencies, said because of other commitments he would visit either before or after August 15.

Seven of the ministers said they would not go to the shrine on the day, while Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, recuperating from a gallstones operation, said he visits Yasukuni shrine once a week and does not have a specific day when he goes.

Education Minister Kunio Hatoyama, who said he would not call on Yasukuni, remarked that paying homage to Japan's war dead is a matter of personal preference, expressing doubt there is a problem with the separation of state and religion if people visit as national or government officials.

Takeshi Noda, head of the Economic Planning Agency, said the fact the Japanese media asks government officials about their plans regarding the visits is in itself a problem.

LDP Preparing Blueprint for Boosting Economy

OW0708132492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Top ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) officials agreed Friday to aim at completing specific plans late August for boosting the nation's economy, including a supplementary budget, party sources said.

The total size of the party's economic package is expected to top 6 trillion yen, they said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa approved of the plan, despite Finance Ministry concerns about presenting the scale of the supplementary budget so early since this year's tax revenues will not be clear until after October.

But the LDP is not in a hurry to pass the supplementary budget, the officials said, as long as it is approved during an extraordinary Diet session planned to begin in late October.

Governmental ministries and the LDP differ in their assessment of the nation's ability to absorb public works spending, with the ministries expressing more optimism while the LDP is calling for further evidence of its feasibility.

In spite of wariness over possible "indigestion" resulting from heavy public works spending, LDP officials remained bullish, saying the nation's construction capacity is good despite weaker private demand.

The officials said the party is even considering increasing public works spending further in the latter half of fiscal 1992, which ends next March. They will be funded by new construction bonds as well as a fiscal investment and loan program, they added.

The scale of soft loans extended to small and medium-sized corporations by government financial institutions is expected to be boosted by 3 trillion yen, the officials said.

Ceiling Raised on Special Outlay Budget Requests

OW0608094992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 6 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance (MOF) has raised the ceiling on ministry requests for fiscal 1993 special outlays for improving living conditions, ministry officials said Thursday.

The ministry restricted the special outlay requests to less than 2.5 times the amount budgeted the previous year, the officials said.

The ceiling was raised from the 2.0 ratio allowed in the fiscal 1992 budget because the special outlay was increased by 50 billion yen to 250 billion yen in the fiscal 1993 budget, the officials said.

The special budget appropriation, used for enhancing Japan's infrastructure and other factors of the nation's living conditions, was introduced in the fiscal 1991 budget in line with Japan's pledge, made during bilateral trade talks with the United States, to spend 430 trillion yen on public works in 10 years.

The 250 billion yen budget for fiscal 1993 will comprise 219 billion yen earmarked for public works spending and 31 billion yen for other projects.

The money will be spent mainly on projects aimed at improving the quality of life, such as investment in housing and sewer systems.

The outlay is an exception from the MOF's long-standing policy of curbing increases in budgetary spending for investment purposes.

The MOF's so-called zero-growth ceiling principle prohibits ministries and agencies from making budget requests for investment-related outlays larger than they were in previous years.

The ministries must submit their approximate budgetary requests by the end of August.

The Finance Ministry will draw up a budget plan by the end of the year by cutting down the requests to the planned total spending for the year.

The ministries' requests for the special outlay totaled 1,158.1 billion yen for the fiscal 1991 budget, nearly six times the 200 billion budget, prompting the MOF to introduce the ceiling in the next fiscal year.

For the fiscal 1993 budget, the Construction Ministry, which obtained 131.1 billion yen, or about 65 percent of the special appropriation in fiscal 1992, will alone be required to restrict its requests to 1.9 times the figure, or 250 billion yen.

Sales of Imported Cars Drop From Year Ago

OW0608045192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 6 KYODO—Sales of imported vehicles in Japan declined 6.2 percent in July from a year earlier to 18,306 units, the Japan automobile importers association said Thursday.

Of the total, sales of passenger cars with engine capacity of more than 2000 cc totaled 9,804, down 4.1 percent, while those of cars up to 2000 cc dropped 9.5 percent to 8,158.

Sales of trucks amounted to 344, up 24.6 percent from a year earlier. No sales of buses were reported for the month.

Sales of U.S.-made cars, including those made by Japanese automakers operating in the United States, amounted to 4,079 in July, up 36.6 percent from the year before.

Sales of British cars, including those produced by Japanese plants in Britain, were down 8.6 percent to 1,572.

The association said sales of German cars, which dominate Japan's imported auto market, declined 13.9 percent to 9,940.

French car sales also dropped 9.6 percent to 894, the association said.

Sales of Swedish cars totaled 884, down 17.8 percent, while those of Italian cars plunged 35.7 percent to 395.

South Korean-made car sales jumped 50 percent to 93.

Current Account Surplus Grows 43.5 Percent

OW0508075592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 5 KYODO—Japan's current account surplus grew 43.5 percent in June from a year earlier to 9.36 billion U.S. dollars before adjustment for seasonal factors, the Finance Ministry reported Wednesday.

June was the 15th straight month in which the current account, which measures trade in goods and services and some unilateral transfers, widened from the year-earlier level.

The June surplus brought the cumulative surplus in the January-June period to a record 56.18 billion dollars, up 94.2 percent from the year before.

In June alone, the trade surplus within the current account jumped 23.0 percent to 11.43 billion dollars, bringing the trade surplus in the January-June period up 42.7 percent to 62.88 billion dollars.

The trade surplus is tallied on a contract settlement basis, not a customs clearance basis.

[Words indistinct] exports, unadjusted for seasonal factors, rose 10.4 percent to 27.31 billion dollars. Imports increased 2.8 percent to 15.88 billion dollars.

Wage Increase Recommended for Government Workers

OW0708062692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0548 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—The National Personnel Authority recommended Friday an average wage increase of 2.87 percent for government employees for fiscal 1992, as well as an improvement in overtime working conditions.

The recommendation was made to the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and the Diet.

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The 2.87 percent pay raise is the lowest in four years due to the sagging economy, National Personnel Authority sources say.

The government body advised improving the conditions under which government employees work overtime, such as by establishing a rule in each government ministry and agency not to hold negotiations past midnight.

It also suggested that parliamentarians submit as early as possible the notices of their planned interpellations in the Diet to speed up deliberations.

The authority also advised the introduction of a flextime working system for some 10,000 public sector researchers from April 1993, and urged the reemployment of people in their early 60s who are willing to and can work.

Government employees are prohibited from striking to obtain better working conditions. To compensate for this, the authority, a government body, is required to advise the cabinet and Diet annually on how to keep public servants' wages on a par with those in the private sector.

More People Reported Switching Jobs to Farming

OW0608142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1357 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 6 KYODO—The number of people who started farming after quitting jobs in other industries jumped 57.7 percent in 1991 from the previous year, a government report said Thursday.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in its annual report on the nation's agriculture industry, said the increase is the first in eight years.

"The economic slowdown is the main factor" behind the shift, the ministry said.

The ministry estimated that about 19,400 people left their jobs and entered the farming industry in 1991. Of the total, about 2,300 people were aged 34 or younger.

The number of young people increased 35 percent from the previous year because young people started seeing the prospects offered by agriculture, the ministry said.

Of the total, 14,700 people were men, and nearly half of the men were older than age 60, it said.

"Many of these elderly people were probably returning to farming," said the ministry, speculating that they might have had difficulty finding a new job in other industries after retirement amid the sluggish economy.

About 27,000 young members of farming households who finished junior high school or higher education in March last year helped on family farms and the figure increased 9.3 percent from the previous year, the ministry said.

North Korea

Daily on N-S Political Subcommittee Meeting

SK0708061492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 7 Aug 92

["South Side Must Discard Its Insincere Attitude"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—At the fourth contact of members of the North-South political subcommittee on August 5 the South side tried to sidetrack the dialogue from the very beginning, contending that the sides differ in their "conceptions of reunification" and that the meaning of the words "getting on the nerves" of the other side and "inciting confrontation" against it, which are contained in the North side's proposal, must be "explained" first.

This is a much-calculated complaint, a premeditated act to mock the dialogue partner and fling the gauntlet for recriminations and thereby delay talks on all accounts, says a NODONG SINMUN analyst today.

He goes on:

The insidious attempts of the South side to delay the arrangement of an annexed agreement were made plain when it took exception to the provisions of the North side's amended annexed agreement that the sides shall refrain from hurling abuses and slanders against the other by any means and methods, whether through "governmental" or "nongovernmental" media, and that all the legal and institutional mechanisms which are hostile to the other side or negates the other shall be removed for national reconciliation and unity.

Their argument for confining the discontinuation of abuses and slanders to the "governmental" media is intended to leave a loophole to resume them against the North any time and a criminal attempt to avoid implementing the North-South agreement on the plea of the "law" now in force in South Korea.

The South side contended at the contact that the reunification question should be solved "in a progressive and stage-by-stage manner" on the basis of "acceptance of the realities" of the North and the South. This was an argument which could be made only by those who have no intention to see the birth of an annexed agreement before the 8th North-South high-level talks.

The South side must stop double-dealing practices and show sincerity at the talks for the arrangement of an annexed agreement before it is too late.

Red Cross Official Comments on Proposed Exchange

SK0708025092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] The secretary of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society today answered questions

posed by a Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] reporter on the agreed upon North-South exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes.

Answering the question on what preparatory work has been done by the relevant sectors for the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes, he said that the preparatory work for the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes, which was a proposal initiated by our side and agreed upon at the seventh North-South high-level talks held last May, has progressed steadily. It begins from being a humanitarian work aimed at realizing our fellow countrymen's ardent desire. It is also a special project to implement the North-South agreement.

He said that the size of the components of the group are based on the size of the old parents' visiting groups. He also said that our side completed the formation of our art troupe to be dispatched to South Korea as well as the repertoire for its performance. The preparatory work has nearly been completed to receive the South side's old parents' visiting group and art troupe.

When asked, why does the discussion between the two sides for the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes not progress smoothly, he said that this is because the South side is laying artificial obstacles before this work at and away from the talks. He also said that, in the first place, the South side, at the North-South Red Cross working delegates' contact, made issue with an irrelevant matter which is not in the seventh North-South high-level talks' agreement, thereby complicating the discussion of issues. He continued saying that the South side separate from the talks sent our side a telephone message that the North-South agreement can hardly be implemented unless the nuclear issue is resolved. Holding a so-called party-government consultative meeting, the South side adopted a resolution that all North-South exchanges will be withheld, placing blame on us in connection with the nuclear issue. He also said that at the same time, the South side's spokesman at the North-South high-level talks made the same statement.

He referred to the South side's rejecting the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo, which is a humanitarian issue more pressing than the issue of displaced families. He also talked about the announcement of the South side that the Focus Lens joint military exercise will be conducted in the latter part of August just as the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes will be made. He expressed deep concern over these developments saying this leads us to suspect that these may be intentional acts aimed at frustrating the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes.

He strongly urged the South side to show sincerity concerning the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes by not intentionally creating difficulties at the working delegates' contact, by no longer putting forth the nuclear issue as a precondition and rejecting the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo, and by calling off the Focus Lens joint military exercise.

In conclusion, he said that whether the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups and art troupes will be realized as desired by our fellow countrymen or not depends totally on the attitude of the South side. He said that our side will continuously watch the South side's attitude.

South Accused of Jeopardizing Exchanges

SK0708100292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 7 Aug 92

[NODONG SINMUN 7 August commentary: "The South Side Must Remove the Stumbling Blocks Before the Exchange of the Elderly Parents' Visiting Groups"]

[Text] Seven rounds of contacts have already been conducted between the Red Cross working delegations of the North and South for realizing the exchange of the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes. To realize the exchange of the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes, which was agreed on and put on the calendar after twists and turns thanks to the proposal initiated by our side, is the unanimous desire of all the fellow countrymen and is an ardent hope of the separated families and relatives in the North and South.

Our side has been making every sincere effort to elevate North-South relations onto a new stage by satisfactorily realizing the exchange of the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes at all costs in a way that meets the expectation of all the fellow countrymen and the displaced families and relatives. Even now the preparations for that undertaking are actively under way. This is graphically expressed in the fact that after making reasonable proposals and counterproposals for agreements reflecting the changed North-South relations, consistently respecting the points of agreement reached at the North-South high-level talks and taking into account the precedent set in the already conducted exchanges of the art troupes and home-visiting groups, we have approached the contacts seriously and magnanimously.

Nonetheless, in South Korea very ominous situations are developing that dim the prospect of this undertaking by raising artificial obstacles to the exchange of the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes.

Almost timed to coincide with the start of the contact between the North-South Red Cross working delegates for the exchange of elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes, the South Korean authorities held what are known as the tripartite working-level meeting for security and the high-level strategic meeting on South-North relations with their U.S. and Japanese masters. They then conspired to take hard-line measures against us, including the resumption of the temporarily suspended Team Spirit exercise, while babbling about the South-North mutual nuclear inspection and kicking up a row of sending us a telephone message on that topic in the name

of the prime minister. Furthermore, in a statement addressed to the North, the spokesman for the South side to the North-South high-level talks babbled that no progress in South-North relations can be hoped for without a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue.

Such a provocative row kicked up by the South Korean authorities is nothing but a deliberate move designed to invalidate the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization and to throw North-South relations back to the starting point of mistrust and confrontation before the documents of agreement were adopted. In fact, this is no different from a declaration of refusing to implement the agreement.

Concerning this, our side stressed from the first round of contacts between the Red Cross working delegations that the South side should give deep thought to our just calls and advice by remembering that if it keeps kicking up anti-Republic commotions and fabricating incidents of various descriptions, including the nuclear issue, it may lead to a grave situation of aborting the exchange of the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes.

In addition, our side demanded that, as required by all the fellow countrymen, the world people, and the Red Cross officials, the South side not turn a deaf ear to the issue of Yi In-mo's repatriation, which has become the most urgent humanitarian issue in North-South relations. Our side urged the South side to return him to his home as soon as possible.

If the South Korean Red Cross side truly hoped that the agreement to exchange the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes would be realized, it should have taken due measures to immediately stop the South Korean authorities' premeditated moves blocking the exchanges of visiting groups. However, while saying that an answer on the nuclear issue had already been given at other subcommittees' meetings, the South side supported the authorities' unjust stand. The South Korean Red Cross said that the issue of Yi In-mo's repatriation is not a humanitarian issue but an issue to be resolved politically between the authorities. It avoided its humanitarian responsibility.

In the meantime, the South Korean authorities are not stopping the activities of blocking the exchanges of visiting groups. Worse still, they are more openly conducting provocative maneuvers to further aggravate North-South relations and rupture the work of exchanging visiting groups. This is well shown in the fact that at a so-called party-government meeting, they decided to postpone all North-South exchanges, unless the North-South mutual nuclear inspection were conducted.

The issue of exchanging the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes is not an issue proposed by both sides' Red Cross organizations but one of the contents agreed upon at the seventh North-South high-level talks. While talking about postponing all North-South exchanges required by the North-South agreement to which they had pledged to implement before all the fellow countrymen, the South Korean authorities are babbling as if they were to realize the work of exchanging visiting groups. This is an unreasonable sophistry and hypocrisy.

Worse still, the South Korean authorities recently announced that they will conduct the large-scale Focus Lens joint military exercise with the United States against the dialogue partner in late August, when the exchange of visiting groups had been scheduled. Because the North and the South confirmed reconciliation and nonaggression, they should end the past confrontational attitude and stop kicking up war rackets against the partner. This is common sense.

When a large-scale joint military exercise against the dialogue partner is conducted, dialogue will rupture and North-South relations will worsen. This is the lesson shown in the North-South dialogue suspended in the past.

The South Korean authorities are trying to conduct the Focus Lens joint military exercise in the period when the work of exchanging visiting groups had been scheduled. This clearly shows that they do not want to implement the North-South agreement or realize the work of exchanging visiting groups. This also clearly shows that the Focus Lens joint military exercise is a deliberate and premeditated move to frustrate the work of exchanging visiting groups.

Facts clearly confirm that the South Korean authorities have not taken the stance to dissipate the sufferings of the families and relatives separated in the North and the South; that they refuse to resolve the issue of repatriating Yi In-mo, the most urgent humanitarian issue, while putting forward the precondition of someone's nonexistent nuclear threat; that they are trying to conduct the Focus Lens joint military exercise against the dialogue partner; and that they are trying to deliberately frustrate the work of exchanging the elderly parents' visiting groups and art troupes, to which both sides had agreed to realize as a special example in the course of implementing the North-South agreement.

All the fellow countrymen and separated families and relatives express great apprehension about the prevailing grave situation. If the South Korean authorities have a bit of interest in dissipating the sufferings of the families and relatives separated in the North and the South, they should not hesitate to remove artificial stumbling blocks to the work of exchanging the elderly parents's visiting groups and art troupes.

If the South Korean authorities constantly kick up a nuclear racket against us, detain Yi In-mo, and persistently conduct the Focus Lens joint military exercise, they should be entirely held responsible for all consequences.

South Dissident Leader Cited on Reunification

SK0608155092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—Kim Hi-son, vice-chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the Formation of the South Side's Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), in an interview with the magazine MAL supported reunification through a confederacy.

She said the masses must be drawn into the reunification movement.

If a "reunification wind" is to be raised, it is important to convince the people that reunification is feasible.

Nothing but confederacy can explain this point. Now that "unification through absorption" is impossible, the confederacy in which the two sides would recognize each other's system is the way of radically promoting reunification.

The South Korean authorities hinder the nongovernmental movement for reunification under the motto of "unified channel of dialogue". They do not have the will for reunification.

Daily Says U.S. Intends To Use Nuclear Arms

SK0708135392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0026 GMT 6 Aug 92

[NODONG SINMUN 6 August commentary: "The Tragedy of Hiroshima Should Not Be Repeated"]

[Text] On this day 47 years ago, a U.S. atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. This was the first nuclear attack on mankind. In a flash, 140,000 persons died and the city was ruined. Three days after that, Nagasaki was attacked by the United States with an atomic bomb, suffering a great disaster.

Half a century has pased since the nuclear bombing, but its consequences still continue. Even now, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki thousands of people are dying every year of various diseases from radioactivity.

The tragedy of Hiroshima shows that nuclear weapons are the devil's weapons designed for mass murder and that the use of nuclear weapons is a heinous criminal act for obliterating mankind's existence and civilization.

The tragedy of Hiroshima should not be repeated. This is an invariable demand of the peace-loving people of the world. However, the danger of nuclear disaster to mankind has not been eliminated because of the followers of the policy of strength are captive of the cold war era way of thinking.

The present U.S. rulers justified the U.S. decision to drop nuclear bombs on Japan, saying it was a right decision. This reveals that the United States has a hidden intention to use nuclear weapons in the future as well.

The U.S. nuclear policy proves this. The United States has produced various nuclear weapons in a mass and stockpiled them for almost half a century since the end of World War II. Even now, the United States continues nuclear testing, produces new nuclear weapons, and maintains an offensive posture. By doing so, the United States attempts to overwhelm other countries with absolute nuclear superiority and establish a new world order under its control.

Japan is the first and the only victim of a nuclear attack in the world. If it does not want such a disaster to be repeated, the Japanese Government authorities should take the initiative to completely abolish nuclear weapons in the world. However, Japan is going in a completely opposite direction. Japan is leaving its territory in the hands of the United States for the latter's nuclear bases and frequently stages nuclear war exercises with the United States to launch an attack on other countries. In addition, Japan is accelerating its own nuclear armament program.

It is a matter of common knowledge that Japan established an armament system capable of firing nuclear warheads long ago and is able to produce nuclear weapons at any time, if it wants to. It is no secret that Japan intends to become a nuclear power by stockpiling large quantities of plutonium.

It is not difficult to imagine what disaster will be inflicted on the Asian people if Japan, which has openly paved the way for its dispatch of troops overseas, is armed with nuclear weapons. People of Asia and the world express great worry over this.

If Japan truly desires denuclearization and peace, it must have the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from its territory and abandon its plan for nuclear armament. Japan's peace invocation without practical actions to support it just makes people suspicious and puts them on alert.

Moreover, Japanese authorities' utterance about someone else's nonexistent nuclear development is nothing but a nasty tactic designed to make a pretext to justify its nuclear armament.

Facts clearly show that the nuclear cloud over mankind still remains and that the nuclear threat comes mainly from the followers of strength.

The United States should take steps for a complete removal of nuclear weapons, withdraw its troops from South Korea, and not create the danger of a nuclear war. The followers of strength, who attempt to build up nuclear arms running counter to mankind's yearning will not be able to escape the denunciation and isolation of the people of the world and will bring about their own destruction. This is a stern warning of the times.

U.S. Urged To End 'Domination' of South Korea

SK0508112992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 5 Aug 92

["U.S. Domination and Interference in South Korea Must Be Ended"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 5 (KCNA)—The United States has no pretext to remain in South Korea any longer and should put an end to its domination and interference in South Korea, stresses NODONG SINMUN here today in a signed editorial.

The main obstacle to realising the desire of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification is the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. armed forces, the paper says, and goes on:

The real ruler of South Korea is not the "president" of South Korea but the United States and the actual ruling organ is not the South Korean "Government" but the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.

The South Korean "Government" is nothing but a puppet from A to Z that moves under the baton of the United States.

The change of "power" or all policies in South Korea are carried out in such a way as to meet the demand of the United States in disregard of people's will and needs.

Political, economic, military, cultural and all other fields of South Korea are dominated and interfered in by the United States.

It is under the backstage manipulation of the United States that the military fascist dictatorship has been in force in South Korea despite the vigorous struggle of the South Korean people for social democratization.

It was the United States that framed up the Pak Chong-hui military fascist "regime" through the "May 16 military coup d'etat" when the Syngman Rhee dictatoral "regime" was toppled down by the vigorous April 19 popular uprising and that egged Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u to carry out the "Dec. 12 army purge" and set up the dictatoral "regime" of the "Fifth Republic" when the notorious "Yusin" dictatorship was destroyed by the October resistance for democracy in 1979. And it is again the United States that cooked up the present "Sixth Republic" and manipulates its bayonet politics behind the scene.

The United States has obstructed the reunification of Korea by inciting the national splittists.

Despite the fact that the high-level talks were held between the North and the South and the historic North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization adopted and effectuated according to the unanimous desire of the entire nation for reunification and they have entered into the stage of implementation, the United States, together with the splittists of South Korea, is seeking to block the implementation of the agreement and the joint declaration at any cost, raising a hue and cry over the "nuclear issue" which evokes no controversy.

The United States should look straight at the trend of the times and get out of South Korea without delay.

Military Says U.S., South Stage Air Exercise

SK0708053892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a large-scale joint air strike exercise simulating a war against the North on August 5, according to military sources.

Formations of overseas-based fighter-bombers and assault planes staged a bombing and ground firing exercise for an intensive strike at strategic targets in the northern half of Korea in the skies above Kunwi, Yoju, Kunsan and other operational zones in South Korea in coordination with more than 350 warplanes of the U.S. 7th Airforce and the puppet airforce.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets held an aerial warfare exercise for getting air supremacy and a war game for surprise attack on the inland areas of the northern half of Korea.

That day more than 30 armed helicopters and transport helicopters staged a military rehearsal for missile strike at targets in the northern portion of the frontline area and a "commando" parachuting and war supplies-dropping exercise aimed at infiltration into the depths of the northern half of Korea in the skies above all the areas of the front from the western to the eastern sector of the front.

A total of more than 720 warplanes were mobilized in the air exercises against the northern half of Korea in the sky above South Korea that day alone.

In a separate action, the South Korean puppets, instigated by the U.S. imperialists, committed a military provocation by firing shells and bullets into areas near the demilitarized zone along the military demarcation line.

South's Plan To Buy Aircraft From Spain Viewed

SK0608145392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Chong Pong-kil commentary: "Violent Infringement on North-South Agreement"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities recently have been more undisguisedly waging new war preparation maneuvers. According to a report, on 3 August, the puppet Defense Ministry announced that it would purchase 12 CN-230 military medium transport aircraft from Spain by 1995 as part of an armaments expansion.

The maximum loading capacity of this aircraft is known to be 4 tons. This aircraft is also known to be capable of carrying 34 paratroopers and 43 armed soldiers at a time.

The puppet Defense Ministry openly raved that with the purchase of CN-230 medium transport aircraft, it will be able to bridge the gap between the C-130 strategic large transport aircraft and the CH- 47 large helicopters, which are presently being operated by the puppet air force, and will effectively carry out tactical air transportation missions.

Prior to this, on 28 July, the United States announced that at the request of the South Korean authorities, it would sell 37 AH-64 assault helicopters, 775 units of Hellfire missiles, 30 mm ammunition, spare engines, and spare parts to South Korea.

All these facts show how wildly the South Korean authorities are running amok with new war preparation maneuvers. Indeed, their maneuvers are a vicious challenge to our people, who unanimously aspire to peace and the nation's peaceful reunification, as well as to the world's people. This is a violent infringement on the spirit of the North-South agreement.

As is known to all, the place where tension is the most acute in the world is the Korean peninsula, and if a war were to erupt on the Korean peninsula, it would easily extend to a global war. Therefore, our people and peace-loving people of the world want to see a relaxation of the tension on the Korean peninsula, the realization of a durable peace, and the achievement of the peaceful reunification.

We proposed and realized the North-South high-level talks according to the will of all fellow countrymen, who aspire to peaceful reunification of the divided fatherland. As a result of this, the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South was finally adopted and effectuated. In the agreement, the North and the South promised not to use armed force against each other and not to invade each other with armed forces. They also agreed to realize disarmament, including the control of military exercise and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, both sides should not run counter to the spirit of the North-South agreement. This notwithstanding, even today, when the North-South agreement has entered the stage of implementation, the South Korean authorities are continuously dragging in weapons of mass destruction and equipment from the United States and other countries. In addition, they are aggravating tension in our country by staging each day war exercises, which are designed for a northward invasion, in and around the Military Demarcation Line.

Such maneuvers can only be construed as an act of those who are not interested in peace and the nation's peaceful reunification and who have no intention to implement the North-South agreement.

Furthermore, at a time when the work of exchanging the elderly parent-visiting groups has become the order of the day, the announcement of the plan to bring weapons of mass destruction and pieces of equipment into South Korea one after another is an act of provoking the dialogue partner. This is designed to create artificial obstacles to discussing the issue of exchanging the visiting groups.

While proposing the mutual visits of elderly parents who aspire to national reunification, the South Korean authorities are running amok with troop reinforcement maneuvers to invade the other side and are instigating confrontation. This is a premeditated maneuver to rupture the work of exchanging the elderly parent-visiting groups.

The South Korean ruling bunch is attempting to further accelerate war preparations for a northward invasion by gaining time behind the screen of dialogue and by hanging out the signboards of peace and reunification. This is clearly shown by the fact that even today, when nearly three months have passed since the end of the seventh North-South high-level talks, the South side is adhering to delaying tactics while creating obstacles to preparing an annexed agreement in each field for implementation of the agreement.

While stalling subcommittee meetings for implementation of the agreement, the South Korean authorities are pushing ahead with the plan of the Focus Lens war exercise, a second Team Spirit, and are attempting to drag in weapons of mass destruction. This clearly exposes the rascals' insidious plot.

Reality shows that the South Korean authorities do not want peace and the nation's reunification and that they are not interested in implementing the agreement. Challenging the fellow countrymen's desire and aspiration, the South Korean authorities are attempting to gain something on the road of confrontation and war instead of with national reconciliation and unity. However, this is a foolish fantasy. The road of confrontation and war will only expedite their final collapse. The South Korean authorities should immediately stop reckless war preparation maneuvers and come to the road of implementing the North-South agreement.

Finance Minister Returns From Syria 31 Jul

SK0508132192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The DPRK-Syrian friendship association delegation led by Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance, who is chairman of the DPRK-Syrian Friendship Association, returned home on 31 July by airplane, ending his visit to Syria.

The delegation was met at the airport by Chon Yon-ok, vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and Yasir Farah, Syrian ambassador to our country.

Lawyers Statement Demands Japan's Apology

SK0508052992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 5 (KCNA)—The International Committee of Jurists for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea published a statement demanding Japan's apology and compensation regarding the "Comfort Women for the Army".

The statement says:

The 17th session of the U.N. Human Rights Committee held in May denounced the violation of human rights by Japan in reducing Korean women to sex slaves in the period of the Japanese imperialist occupation of Korea.

Japan took away a large number of Korean women as "comfort girls" for the Japanese army and committed all evildoings against them and even murdered them in cold blood.

The Japanese authorities must feel due responsibility for these hideous acts and take a proper step in conformity with international conventions.

As compensations were made to the victims of chemical experiments in Nazi camps during the Second World War, the Japanese authorities must make adequate compensations for the drafting of a great number of Korean women as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers and their brutal murder.

In June 41 Korean women who had been forced to sex slavery strongly protested to the Japanese authorities in Tokyo, demanding a compensation.

Japan, far from making an open apology for this problem at the DPRK-Japan talks, dismissed it as a trifling matter in its past colony, not feeling due responsibility.

We call upon all the human rights organizations of the world to strongly urge the Japanese authorities to make full compensations for all misfortunes and sufferings imposed upon the Korean people in the past.

Reaction to Japanese Daily on 'Atrocities'

SK0708111992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 7 Aug 92

["Who Does Talk Nonsense?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The Japanese SANKEI SHIMBUN charged that the DPRK is engaged in "artificial propaganda" regarding the issue of "comfort women for the army," saying it is "nonsensical to the sense of the Japanese side."

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

The thrice-cursed atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists against Korean women have been proved undisputably by historical facts. In fact, the Japanese imperialists perpetrated more shuddering brutalities than what witnesses said.

As far as the "sense of the Japanese side" mentioned by SANKEI SHIMBUN is concerned, it is the sense of those who are trying to evade clear apology and compensation, prettifying the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists.

It is because SANKEI SHIMBUN has this sense that hard historical facts appear to be "artificial" and "nonsensical" in its eyes.

The afore-said report of SANKEI SHIMBUN is the height of shame for the press to which impartiality and truth are vital. Such attitude of the press is not beneficial to the normalization of Korea-Japan relations either.

If SANKEI SHIMBUN continues to spread such false reports, it would reveal with increasing clarity its despicable color as a mouthpiece of the militarist forces.

Japan Said Building Military Power, Expansion

SK0708110892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 7 Aug 92

["Overseas Aggrandizement Accelerated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The Japanese Defence Agency recently decided to set up a new military "information committee" and build a large long-distance transport ship. This vividly reveals once again the wild ambition of Japan which is lashing the horse of the war chariot into full speed to gratify her desire for a military power, a nuclear power and overseas expansion at any cost in disregard of the world opinion, says a MINJU CHOSON analyst today.

The news analyst goes on:

The decision of the Japanese Defence Agency to set up a new military "information committee" by revising and reorganizing the former information system is intended to increase the functions of collection and analysis of military information and unify the treatment of obtained information and thereby supplement and readjust the war capacity and realize overseas expansion.

A same insidious intention lurks behind its plan to build a large transport ship. The Japanese NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported that it is a 10,000-ton ship capable of carrying hundreds of personnel and heavy equipment including large helicopters and its speed is twice that of other transports.

The Japanese Defence Agency is making haste with the building of the long-distance transport ship of latest type. This is a danger signal that their attempts at overseas aggrandizement have reached a very grave stage.

The Japanese authorities are working to satisfy their desire to build a military power and realize overseas

expansion under the specious cloak of "U.N. peace-keeping cooperation". But nobody will be misled by it.

They would be well-advised to behave properly, mindful that their ambition for a military power and overseas expansion can never be brought to materialization and that the road along which they are now rushing headlong would entail more catastrophic consequences than in World War II.

Cuban Ambassador Helps in Monument Construction

SK0608045392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—Cuban ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials helped in the construction of the monument to the victorious Fatherland Liberation War on August 5 in the month of solidarity with the Cuban people.

This grand monument dedicated to the brilliant victory of the Korean people and People's Army in the Fatherland Liberation War against the invasion of the U.S. imperialist aggressors (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953), is being erected on a bank of the River Potong in Pyongyang.

The helpers did earth digging together with constructors and, during the break, deepened the feelings of friendship, singing songs of Korea and Cuba.

Solidarity With Cuban People Month Ends

SK0708054092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The month of solidarity with the Cuban people set on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the July 26 armed uprising of the Cuban people closed with a due ceremony in Pyongsong, south Pyongan province, on August 6.

Speaking at the meeting, Kim Pong-nam, vice-chairman of the south Pyongan provincial administrative and economic committee, said that the Cuban people, firmly rallied behind the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, their supreme leader, have turned out in the campaign to carry through the decisions of the 4th party congress under the militant banner "Let Us Defend the Motherland, Revolution and Socialism" according to the strategy of "a special period of peace time", not yielding to any threat and blackmail of the enemies, and are tapping inner reserves to the maximum and increasing production while building up defence capacity as firm as a rock.

The friendship and solidarity between the two countries and two peoples of Korea and Cuba, the speaker said, are very solid as they are based on special intimacy and fidelity between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

The Korean people will in the future, too, stand firm on the side of the Cuban people, he declared.

He sincerely wished the fraternal Cuban people greater success in their struggle to defend the revolution and bring the independent development and prosperity of the country.

Cuban ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega spoke next.

Korea and Cuba will certainly win in the struggle to defend socialism as they are guided by the great leader of the Korean people comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme commander of the Cuban people, and their parties and people are united, he said.

Referring to the moves of the South Korean puppets against the implementation of the North-South agreement, he pointed out: All this is nothing but a foolish attempt to "absorb" the northern half of Korea, not a stand to truly reunify the country.

The Korean people under the correct leadership of their great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il will surely win in the struggle for the reunification of their country, he said, adding:

You will always get invariable support from the entire Cuban people in this struggle.

South Korea

N-S Red Cross Delegates Hold Working Contact

SK0708035792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0310 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] North and South Korea held the eighth round of Red Cross working delegates' contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom today and are making last stage negotiations for the exchange of the displaced families' old parents' visiting groups and art troupes.

At today's contact, which occurs at a time when there is doubt as to whether the exchange of the visiting groups originally scheduled for 25 August will take place, our side strongly urged the North side to withdraw its preconditions on the nuclear issue, the repatriation of Mr. Yi In-mo, and the halt to the Focus Lens ROK-U.S. joint military exercise and to consummate working procedural matters.

Our side especially noted that if the exchange of the visiting groups is aborted because of the North side's rejection, it will be a clear violation of the agreement of the seventh North-South high-level talks. It stressed that the North side should seriously consider the impact therefrom and its responsibility for future North-South relations.

Contact Ends Without Success

SK0708070292 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0630 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] The exchange of the visiting groups from the North and South including families' old parents who are separated

from their families and art troupes, which was scheduled from 25 to 28 August, is now virtually impossible.

South and North Korea held the eighth Red Cross working delegates contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom this morning but because of the differences in positions between the two sides over the preconditions put forth by the North side, such as the nuclear issue and the repatriation of Mr. Yi In-mo, the two sides even failed to set a date for the next contact. They ended the working contact without success.

The realization of the exchange of the old parents' visiting groups is unlikely unless some dramatic breakthrough comes about between the North and South.

Vice Minister Urges North To Allow Reunions

SK0708110292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0933 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 (YONHAP)—Vice Unification Minister Yim Tong-won Friday [7 August] urged North Korea to withdraw its "unreasonable" demands and show a "sincere humanitarian posture" toward family reunions.

The vice minister made the call in a comment on the de facto cancellation of the projected visits by some separated family members between the two divided sides of Korea later this month.

"We utterly regret it that despite their earlier pledge to promote a hometown visitors exchange program without any conditions, the North has attached various prerequisites to the exchange to virtually foil it," Yim said.

The vice minister said that the North sought to shift the blame for the virtual cancellation to the South by disputing some articles that the South's press reported erroneously.

"The dispersed family issue is a national task that has to be resolved on a top priority basis. The government will continue to do all it can to resolve the question at an early date," Yim said.

Envoy Says U.S. Dismisses Meeting Proposal

SK0708052592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0500 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Washington, Aug. 6 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States has dismissed a North Korean proposal for a meeting of Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington on inter-Korean nuclear issues, Hyon Hong-chu, South Korean ambassador to Washington, said Thursday [7 August].

The proposal was relayed by William Taylor, vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), who visited North Korea June 23-29 and met with ranking officials, including President Kim Il-song.

Pyongyang also proposed giving Washington the nuclear-related information that it submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), suggesting possible U.S. participation in nuclear inspections in North Korea, Hyon told reporters.

It was unclear whether the suggested participation was as part of an IAEA inspection team or inter-Korean mutual inspection team and the United States dismissed the suggestion, he said.

The United States was not considering participating in inter-Korean inspections, and there was no difference of opinion on this matter between Seoul and Washington, Hyon said.

The ambassador accused North Korea of using the nuclear controversy to arrange a tripartite meeting to ease international pressure on it to accept inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspection.

The IAEA has conducted two ad hoc inspections in North Korea and is preparing for its first routine inspection toward end of the month. Seoul is insisting on separate nuclear inspection by South and North Korea that would open up suspected military sites, some after a 24-hour notice.

Suspicions against North Korea's nuclear program had partly increased despite the IAEA's ad hoc inspections, and there was no change in the Seoul-Washington policy that Pyongyang must accept inter-Korean inspection, Hyon said.

Decision on UN Peacekeeping Operations Delayed

SK0708104192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government and the ruling party delayed the decision Friday [7 August] on sending South Korean infantrymen to take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO).

Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Rep. Chong Chi-mun, chairman-designate of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, told Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok the DLP would make the decision next week, after further deliberation by the foreign and defense committees.

Friday's government-party meeting was the first since an inter-ministerial meeting last July 15 that decided to send military observers and medical staffers on U.N. peace missions.

The July 15 meeting, however, decided to pool wider public opinion before making a decision on foot soldiers. The Defense Ministry has a plan for a 730-member dispatch of 38 observers, 540 infantry soldiers and 154 medical support staffers.

The foreign minister briefed DLP lawmakers on five issues, including South Korea-Russia relations, the aftermath of the Los Angeles riot in late April, and a government report on women abused as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The lunch meeting discussed mostly the PKO issue, Foreign Ministry officials said.

ROK, U.S. Begin Talks on Economic Initiatives

SK0708012992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] South Korea and the United States began their final negotiations on the presidents' economic initiatives (PEI) for better investment conditions and technological cooperation in Washington yesterday, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

The two countries plan to finalize an agreement at the talks and announce it in a presidential joint statement at a Korea-U.S. summit in September, said Kim Yong-kyu, director general of International Trade.

Presidents No Tae-u and George Bush agreed at January's summit to produce the PEI as a way of improving business conditions for each other and as an alternative to sector-by-sector negotiations. Seoul and Washington already had two rounds of working-level talks.

The initiative, however, is nonbinding and will be reported to the presidents as recommendations.

It is divided into four parts—customs, standardization, investment and technology. Major parts of the initiative call on Korea to simplify customs procedures through automation, match standardization to international regulations and ease restrictions on investment conditions through wider opening of distribution networks and better local financing.

The United States is to give in return wider access to technological information to Korea.

It will not focus on key controversial trade issues between the two countries such as financial market opening, Kim said.

Seoul chalked up its first trade surplus with Washington in 1982, but the figures tumbled to a $760 million deficit last year.

Kim leads the Korean delegation. His American counterpart is Sandra Kristoff, deputy assistant secretary of state.

Parties' Leaders Meet, Fail To Reach Agreement

SK0608142192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1045 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 6 (YONHAP)—The heads of the three major parties met Thursday [6 August] afternoon for the first time after the March general elections to discuss ways to normalize the paralyzed parliament, but failed to reach any agreement.

The breakup of the talks led to the calling-off of a separate meeting Friday between Kim Yong-sam of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and Kim Tae-chung of the opposition Democratic Party.

Thursday's meeting arranged by Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu lasted about two and a half hours. The attendees were the two Kims and Chong Chu-yong, head of the Unification National Party [official English name is United People's Party, UPP].

With the failure of the talks, the ruling party intends to resume the Assembly session Friday afternoon to carry through the selection of Assembly Standing Committee chairmen while the opposition parties were determined to thwart the one-sided floor running by the ruling party by all means.

At the talks held at Speaker Pak's office, the two opposition leaders suggested that the elections of county commissioners and small city mayors be held separate from those of provincial governors and major city mayors, with elections for one group of the two held within the year.

The DLP executive chairman rejected the idea saying that no local elections could be held this year due to financial problems.

Kim Yong-sam instead proposed that the time of local elections be left to a new president to be elected toward this year end and that political parties work out an amendment to the presdiential election law to better ensure election fairness after they first normalized the Assembly.

But, Kim Tae-chung and Chong Chu-yong made it clear they could not cooperate in the Assembly operation unless the ruling camp agree to hold the election of local elections within the year.

Kim Tae-chung, in particular, offered to meet Kim Yong-sam separately to continue to discuss hot issues, only to be rebuffed by the DLP leader.

"I don't feel the need to have any further talks unless there is a change in the attitude of the opposition camp," Kim Yong-sam said.

Emerging from the talks, Kim Yong-sam said, "there is no change in our policy not to hold local elections this year."

He also hinted at the passage of an amendment to the local election law through the current special sitting by saying, "our basic policy is to act on any bills introduced to the floor without fail."

Kim Tae-chung said, "through today's talks, it has become clear who has brought about the political impasse and who is little inerested in resolving the current political deadlock."

National Party's Chong Chu-yong said, "Kim Yong-sam has expressly unveiled an attempt to get elected through government influence. Now that the DLP has disclosed

the strategy to railroad a local election law amendment through the Assembly, we cannot cooperate in normalizing the Assembly."

Kim Yong-sam Said To Receive DLP Presidency

SK0508031892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 5 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) standing committee will meet Aug. 26 and name executive chairman Kim Yong-sam party president, a DLP insider said Wednesday [5 August].

The committee will meet at the Korea Exhibition Center (KOEX) with some 2,000 members of the party attending, he said.

The Central Executive Council met Wednesday and amended party regulations requiring the standing committee to meet within 90 days of the national convention so the meeting could be postponed for 30 days.

The DLP national convention was May 19 and the committee should have met by Aug. 17 in accordance with the old party regulations.

At the same time, the standing committee is expected to select either Rep. Chong Sok-mo or Rep. Sin Sang-u as its chairman, according to the insider.

ROK To Open Consulate General in Vladivostok

SK0708064392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0606 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry appointed three consuls and vice consuls Friday [7 August] as an advance team to open a South Korean consulate-general in Vladivostok.

Consul Tae Sok-won will head the team, which includes Vice Consuls Yi Won-U and Pae Sil-su. The advance team is to go to the Russian port by end of this month, officials said.

Vladivostok is the first Russian city in which South Korea will open a diplomatic mission other than its embassy in Moscow.

South Korea and the Soviet Union normalized ties in September 1990.

Article Cites Soviet Documents on Korean War

SK0308235892 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 30 Jul 92 p 5

[Article by reporter Kim Chae-hong: "True Picture of the 25 June Korean War Is Being Unveiled—Stalin's Telegram Exposes the Secret History of Southward Invasion"]

[Text] The participation of the UN forces, with the United States as the main force, and of the Chinese People's Army had the greatest influence on the Korean war.

While the situation leading to the participation of U.S. troops and UN forces in the war has been public information, the background behind the Chinese Volunteers' decision to participate and the effect of the Soviet Union on that decision has not been disclosed. As the United States had different ways of dealing with either Soviet or Chinese participation in the war, it can be said that their involvement was the greatest factor in determining the U.S. course of action.

Whereas the policy formulated by the U.S. National Security Council on 1 September 1950 states that "if China participates in the war, the United States will continue the war as long as the situation allows," it also states that "if the Soviet Union interferes, the United States will prepare for a global war while turning the situation into a defensive one." This policy was adopted by the UN Command on 27 September upon receipt of these official instructions through the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

While the United States was able to maintain diplomatic contact with the Soviet Union when war broke out by asking the Soviet Union to exercise influence on North Korea to withdraw its southward invasion, it failed to find a proper diplomatic contact point with China. At the time, China had a strong army with substantial experience in war gained through anti-Japanese and anti-Kuomintang guerrilla warfare, but had a new government less than a year old that was founded only in October 1949. Some observe that the United States may have underestimated China because of its weak diplomatic foundation.

Immediately after the Korean war broke out, China began the so-called "anti-U.S. imperialist movement." China even postponed preparation for attacking Taiwan. China first reacted officially to the Korean war when UN forces led by General MacArthur recaptured Seoul from the communist army by landing in Inchon and began advancing northward to the 38th parallel. On 30 September, Zhou Enlai, then the Chinese foreign minister, announced that "the Chinese people absolutely will not tolerate the situation in which China's ally is being reduced to slavery by the aggression of foreign troops." China had concluded a mutual defense treaty with North Korea in February 1949, seven months before establishing its government.

In February of the following year, North Korea concluded a military treaty with the Soviet Union, thereby formulating a tripartite communist alliance system in Northeast Asia. North Korea started the Korean war soon after on 25 June on the pretext of "liberating the fatherland."

Hong Song-tae, director of the Korean Strategic Issues Research Institute, studied the events leading up to the Chinese Army's participation in the Korean war. He broke down their decision to participate in the war into two steps. According to him, the Political Bureau Presidium of the Communist Party of China Central Committee held a meeting on 2 October 1950 under the chairmanship of Mao Zedong and decided to participate.

Mao then sent Zhou to Moscow on 9 October. Upon arrival in Moscow, Zhou discovered that Stalin was on

vacation in the Crimea and thus flew over there to meet him. The fact that it was at the 13 October meeting that Zhou and Stalin confirmed the finality of the decision [choejong kyolchonguro hwagin hada] to participate was found in a document contained in "The Collection of materials on the Party's History," which was accessible only to core party members of the CPC before exposure by Director Hong. Thus, the document serves as valuable historical data for discovering the truth behind the outbreak of the 25 June Korean war.

Further evidence that the Korean war was instigated by conspiracy between the allied communist forces of North Korea, the Soviet Union, and China, can be found not only in the record of Zhou informing Stalin by using the phrase "as discussed previously, China decided to send ground forces to the Korean War," but also in the request for Soviet air support.

Stalin changed his mind, however, when the Korean war began to take on characteristics of a global war with the active participation of U.S. and UN forces. Seeing that the situation was unfavorable to the communist army, Stalin withdrew from his agreement to provide Soviet air support, using unpreparedness as a pretext.

At this point Zhou recommended that Mao reconsider the "anti-U.S. war to aid Korea," but Mao nonetheless instructed Zhou to inform Stalin that China was dispatching its troops to Korea.

Zhou reported back that Stalin "showed deep emotion at that time as a human being."

In backing out of the agreement, Stalin promised instead to provide equipment for 36 divisions of the Chinese People's Army [CPA].

With the CPA's additional participation in the war, the UN forces suffered great damages and had to give Seoul up again to the communists in early January of 1951. On 13 January, the UN Security Council passed "The Bill of Armistice Under the Present Status" by a vote of six to five. This was the first official discussion of the armistice. In the meantime, the ROK Army and UN forces had retreated as far back as the 37th parallel passing by Pyongtaek and Ansong, and this armistice bill was thus construed to be a "disgraceful armistice proposal." If North Korea and China had accepted this proposal at the time, Seoul would have remained in the hands of the communists and the situation on the Korean peninsula would be very different from what it is today.

ROK Agrees To Fully Open Haulage Market in '94

SK0708030792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0122 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Washington, Aug. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea agreed to open its haulage market completely in April 1994 at a follow-up contact to bilateral Korea-U.S. maritime talks Thursday [6 August].

Korea will allow U.S. companies to make 100-percent investment in sea transportation agencies from July 1993, up from the present 50 percent.

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission was on the verge of imposing retaliatory steps on Korea after the talks deadlocked July 7-9 over the timing of Korea's market opening.

In the talks, Korea proposed it open its trucking market in early 1995 but the United States wanted Korea to open the market by late 1993.

Choe hun, assistant transportation minister, represented Korea at the July talks, and Patrick Morris, deputy maritime administrator, led the U.S. side.

Japan Seeks Intellectual Rights Protection

SK0708061192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 (YONHAP)—Japan has begun to make strong demands for South Korea to protect its intellectual property rights by giving it equal protection with U.S. and European Community rights, government sources said Friday [7 August].

Japan is asking for the protection of copyrights and software just as the Korean Government promised the United States in 1986, the sources said.

Japan also wants retroactive protection for uncommercialized patents on a par with Seoul's commitment to the United States and EC, they said.

Accepting all the demands would be impossible because of Korea's huge trade deficit with Japan, they said.

Tokyo would impose a heavier burden for patent royalties on Korea in such fields as medicines and agricultural chemicals, if its demands were accepted, they said.

The two governments agreed to launch negotiations on intellectual property rights in an action plan they drew up in June, and working-level contacts began July 31.

Under the plan whose primary concern was to redress the huge trade imbalance in Japan's favor, the two governments agreed to establish foundations to encourage the transfer of technical know-how.

Tokyo says that protection of intellectual property rights is a must to build the basis for technical transfer, the sources said.

South Korea had a deficit of 8.9 billion U.S. dollars in its trade with Japan last year.

Investments in China, Vietnam Far Below Rivals

SK0408025992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 4 (YONHAP)—South Koreans sank 83.6 million U.S. dollars into 116 investments in China

last year, one-73rd of Hong Kong's 8,502 investments of 7,215 million dollars, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) said Tuesday [4 August].

Taiwan and Japan invested much more than Korea with 1,388 million dollars in 1,735 investments and 812 million dollars in 599, respectively, Kotra said.

Singapore also topped Korea with 169 investments registering 155 million dollars last year.

Korea made 10 investments worth 54 million dollars in Vietnam, compared with Hong Kong's 90 worth 394 million dollars and Taiwan's 46 worth 603 million dollars.

Japan also invested in Vietnam more actively than Korea, pouring 104 million dollars into 22 investments in 1991.

Kotra said that Korea's investment in China and Vietnam also trailed advanced countries such as the United States, Germany, Britain and Canada.

The low level of investment in Vietnam and China by Korea was ascribed to geographical disadvantage and the difference of economic systems.

China and Vietnam have good investment environments in terms of low wages and industrial peace, the official said, adding that active investment should be made in China and Vietnam to benefit from those advantages.

Steel Export Figures to China, U.S. Reported

SK0708023492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 (YONHAP)—Steel exports to China shot up 254.6 percent to 514,087 tons and turnover jumped 294.7 percent to 239.66 million U.S. dollars in the first half of the year over the same period last year, the Korea Iron and Steel Association (KISA) said Friday [7 August].

Exports to the United States, on the other hand, remained in the doldrums, rising 6.7 percent to 814,788 tons and 0.9 percent to 370.07 million dollars.

Steel trade with China was boosted by the success of China's industrial policy, promoted since last year-end, which resulted in 7-percent and 14-percent growth of economy and industry, respectively.

The Chinese Government's attention to automobile and electric household appliance manufacturing helped increase steel demand along with February's Korea-China trade agreement, which abolished tax discrimination againt Korea, KISA officials said.

Prospects for steel exports to China look bright as Beijing's payment ability is improving owing to its growing foreign currency holdings, but tough trade regulations will hurt exports to the United States and other advanced countries, the officials predicted.

Trade missions consisting of representatives of steel companies will go to China at the end of August and in September to launch sales activities there, they added.

SRV Designated Target for Natural Resources

SK0608060792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 6 (YONHAP)—The cabinet designated Vietnam, which has no diplomatic ties with Korea, a target nation to develop natural resources Thursday [6 August].

This opens the way for the Korea Petroleum Development Corp. to join exploration of Vietnam's 11-2 sea floor mining block.

Under the law on overseas resources development, companies need a cabinet approval to take part in developing resources of countries without diplomatic ties.

As a result of the cabinet decision, a consortium of eight Korean companies may now join Vietnamese oil exploration.

* North's Yi Sam-no Accepts U.S. Presence

* Marks Shift in Policy

922C0199 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Jun 92 p 3

[Editorial: "What Yi Sam-no's Remarks Are Aiming at"]

[Text] High-ranking North Korean foreign policy official Yi Sam-no's statement to the effect that even after reunification North and South Korea should maintain existing international treaties and that the continued stationing of the U.S. Forces in Korea (USFK) can be accepted makes us doubt our own ears.

It is difficult to dismiss the official character of such remarks in view of both his position as adviser to North Korea's "Research Institute for Disarmament and Peace" and representative to the Japan-North Korean normalization negotiations and the rigidity of the North Korean bureaucratic system, in which individual discretion is extremely limited.

The question of withdrawal of U.S. troops has up to now been the core objective of North Korea's policy and propaganda of opposing South Korea and criticizing the United States. The premise and the basis of propagandizing and excoriating "the imperialistic aggressive nature of the United States," and South Korea's "colonialistic slave nature" and "non-independence" has been precisely the existence of the USFK.

Consequently, if North Korea accepts the stationing of U.S. troops in South Korea and international treaties, including the R.O.K.-U.S. Mutual Security Pact—its legal basis—even after reunification, North Korea must greatly revise its policy towards South Korea and the

United States and its propaganda strategy that has existed up to now. When we look at the basic attributes of the North Korean regime, we cannot expect such policy changes to occur easily, however.

If that is the case, why has North Korea unexpectedly come out with such a statement in a virtually official forum at this time? First of all we may examine the form of reunification they are considering. Yi Sam-no's statement seems to assume a confederal type of unified state in which the component states would have their own diplomatic authority. This is an extension of their "Koryo Confederal System" reunification plan.

Next, it is possible this is a gesture aimed at easing the United States' nuclear pressure on the North. North Korea has claimed that the international pressure for nuclear inspections now being imposed on them is all being led by the United States. Perhaps North Korea believes that this U.S. attitude is a circuitous tactic to perpetuate the stationing of U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula by silencing North Korea's calls for U.S. troop withdrawal.

For the time being, we cannot accurately judge to what extent the ideas of North Korea's ruling class are embraced in Yi Sam-no's statement. But we would like to hope that it reflects the belief of those moderates in the North Korean ruling system who aspire for an open-door policy and we hope that North Korea's foreign policy will shift in that direction.

That the U.S. troops are a far cry from an aggressor army that is obstructing reunification as North Korea has claimed has already been proven in Germany. The time has come for the Pyongyang authorities also to take a good look at this stark lesson.

In any case, as a result of Yi Sam-no's remarks there is a danger that our society will get our wires crossed in our understanding of North Korea. This is certainly not a desirable situation. To us, commemorating the 42nd anniversary of the Korean war in a situation of North-South dialogue, it is most important to have a precise picture of North Korea.

By accurately grasping the real intent and background of Yi Sam-no's remarks and the actual situation and future direction of North Korean foreign policy, the government should fulfill its responsibility of reconciling these matters so that the public does not feel a sense of confusion toward North Korea.

* 'Real Intent' Questioned

922C0199B Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] The remarks made at an academic conference in Hawaii by Yi Sam-no, the North Korean representative to the Japan-North Korea diplomatic normalization negotiations, accepting the stationing of U.S. Forces in Korea even after reunification are attracting new attention and there is speculation that North Korea's reunification policy might be greatly changing.

In a printed version of his keynote speech distributed in advance, Yi once again proposed the existing reunification formula of a "confederal method based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments."

He explained that the confederal state "should establish a non-nuclear, peace-loving policy and a policy of neutrality" and that "all treaties concluded by North and South with other countries prior to reunification should be respected and foreign nations' interests and rights also should be protected as before."

In connection with protecting the rights and interests of foreign countries, he stressed, in particular, respect for the interests of the United States, Japan, and other Western countries in South Korea and the guarantee of free investments from abroad in the reunified state.

It is difficult to regard Yi's remarks as hinting some change in North Korea's reunification policy.

In President Kim Il-song's New Year's Address last year, North Korea clarified its position that after the two Koreas adopt a reunification formula calling for a "phased" confederation, "we will accept a phased reunification method in which the regional autonomous governments would be given more authority in the realm of diplomatic, defense, and economic powers, and the authority of the confederal government would be strengthened gradually." Each regional government (South and North) would be able to conduct its own foreign relations and economic activities. In that sense, Yi's remarks are nothing new. Yi's mention of respect for existing treaties and guaranteeing foreign rights and interests and investments can logically be viewed as North Korea's consistent stand since last year, which stated that the regional autonomous governments could also be guaranteed foreign policy autonomy and economic autonomy.

MAINICHI SHINBUN's June 24 report of Yi's remarks in his keynote speech to the effect that "If necessary, we will accept the continued stationing of U.S. troops in Korea" has prompted a few doubts.

In the text of the speech distributed in advance, the question of stationing of U.S. troops was not directly addressed.

It said only: "If a reunified Korea comes to have cooperative relations politically and militarily and economically with the United States and Japan, the pursuit of strategic interests by the United States and Japan in the Asian-Pacific region would be beneficial, not disadvantageous." It is difficult to regard these remarks as going beyond the general meaning that, given the strategic position of the Korean peninsula, a reunified state would have to have cooperative relations with the U.S. and Japan.

The problem is the statement reported in the MAINICHI SHINBUN that "The continued stationing of U.S. Forces in Korea after reunification will be accepted."

We believe it is difficult to conclude that these remarks are a basic North Korean policy change.

North Korea has consistently stated it would recognize the "phased" withdrawal of U.S. Forces in Korea. These remarks can also be understood from that viewpoint. That is, if they are based on the assumption that the phased withdrawal of USFK has been decided on and this is accepted, in a situation where unification is achieved according to a confederal formula, even though a complete withdrawal is foreseen "ultimately," one can visualize a situation in which the U.S. troops "temporarily" remain after reunification.

Also, it is a fact that North Korea has to an extent also shown an understanding of the position of neighboring states, which regard the present stationing of U.S. forces in Korea as definitely contributing to the stability of Northeast Asia.

North Korea also realizes that the problem of U.S. troops in Korea is not purely a problem between North and South Korea or between North Korea and the United States.

One cannot know accurately the real intent of Yi's remarks on "accepting the continued stationing of U.S. troops in Korea," but the experts say it is too early to jump to the conclusion that even after reunification North Korea would accept the stationing of U.S. forces under a regional autonomous government in the South forever.

Consequently, it is doubtful that North Korea has accepted completely the continuation of the R.O.K.-U.S. Mutual Security Treaty and the continued stationing of U.S. forces in Korea as MAINICHI SHINBUN says. KCNA savagely criticized U.S. Ambassador to Korea Gregg's statement that "Even after reunification the U.S. forces in Korea can be stationed on the Korean peninsula." This shows clearly where the North Korean position is.

North Korea is simply mobilizing such vague rhetoric as a signal that it has adopted a policy of improvement of relations with the United States and Japan and of rapprochement with the outside world and an open door.

Through Yi's remarks North Korea has reaffirmed that its confederal republic formula has changed directions completely, however, to a type in which the regional autonomous governments could be granted much authority in foreign policy and economic policy.

* Power Stations Easing North's Energy Shortages

922C0194A Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean 25 Jun 92 pp D1-D4

[NAEWOE article: "Concentrated Efforts Under Way to Speed Up Construction of Power Stations to Relieve the Energy Shortage—16 Plants under Construction including Namgang Hydro, East Pyongyang Thermal"]

[Text] Seoul (NAEWOE)—As its energy shortage worsens daily, North Korea is concentrating efforts on completing ahead of schedule its power plants currently under construction while stressing the importance of electric power supplies in securing production growth.

Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il personally instructed the earlier completion of plants under construction and, as a result, "rallies" for implementation of the instructions from the Kim father and son are being held on construction sites, urging workers to exert their utmost.

According to North Korean broadcasts, on two occasions, 26 and 28 May, Kim Il-song instructed completion at earlier dates of all the power plants currently under construction. Earlier, Kim Chong-il also ordered the Namgang hydropower station project to be completed within this year. On the construction sites of the Namgang hydropower station and the Haeju thermal power plant, large-scale "rallies" to carry through the instructions of the Kim father and son were held on 22 May and 16 June, respectively.

At the same time, through the party organ NODONG SINMUN and other propaganda media of various types, North Korea has stepped up agitation programs for workers to speed up the construction of power plants. NODONG SINMUN dated 15 June editorially picked seven of the plants under construction as "priority projects" to urge their earlier completion.

The number of large-scale hydropower and thermal power plants currently under construction in North Korea is estimated at 16, including the seven "priority projects" as cited by NODONG SINMUN. Besides, there are medium and small-scale hydropower plants and wind power plants being built in every region.

Those medium and small-scale power plants are generally of 100-kw levels. They are being built for self-supply in regions of power to small local industry plants and households. The construction has been under way throughout North Korea since the 19th plenum of the fifth party Central Committee held in December 1979, in compliance with the "decision" adopted at the plenum. In connection with medium and small-scale hydropower plants, North Korea once reported (in a 16 June, 1990, Pyongyang broadcast) that 693 of them had been completed and 700 were under construction as of the end of 1989.

Wind power plants are being built mainly in coastal areas of South Pyongan and South Hwanghae provinces. They will, according to the plan, supply 20 percent of the energy required in the 2000's.

Concentrated Construction Since Latter Half of 1980's

Large-scale hydro and thermal power plants currently under construction in North Korea, including the "priority projects" cited by NODONG SINMUN, are as follows:

Namgang Hydropower Station: Construction began in the second half of 1989. The initial target was to put one of the projected generators into operation by Kim Il-song's 80th birthday in April this year; due to equipment, materials and funding shortages and backward technologies, little progress

had been made until Kim Chong-il issued instructions in May for completion by the year-end, which spurred the work. The exact location and scale of the project is unknown; in view of the fact that North Korea completed in August 1987 the first phase of the Namgang Hydropower Station on Namgang, a tributary of Taedong River, in Sinpyong County, North Hwanghae Province, as part of the "Comprehensive Taedong River Development Plan" (adopted in May 1973). Beginning with that project, it is pushing construction of hydropower facilities on Namgang. The current project appears to be a second-phase project under the May 1973 plan.

Yongwon Hydropower Station: Construction started in about June 1987. It is located in Yongwon County on the upper reach of the Taedong River, South Pyongan Province. It is known that Kim Il-song picked the site in person, showing special interests in the project. Anti-drought and other basic work was finished in 1988 and currently the building of a dam is in progress. The scale of this facility is unknown.

Orang River Hydropower Station: Construction began in the latter half of 1989. The projected station consists of several plants built by damming up the upper reach of the Orang River—which runs through Orang County, North Hamgyong Province, from north to south and into the East Sea—and rechannelling the water course through new routes and tunnels. It is known that, at present, the digging of 790-meter No. 4 work pit is in its final stage while that of Nos. 3 and 5 work pits has also been completed approximately 80 percent. The project's exact scale is unknown but, judging from North Korean broadcasts that referred to it as a multi-phased and "huge capacity" project, it appears to be one that is relatively large in scale.

Kumya River Hydropower Station: This facility is being built on the Kumya River, South Hamgyong Province. Its known capacity is 135,000 kw.

Taechon River Hydropower Station: This is a large-scale facility being built by the method of rechannelling the water course, as part of North Korea's "four major nature-remaking projects." Construction began in October 1986 and, currently, the 760,000-kw-scale first-phase project is under way, with part of it already completed and producing power.

Ratio of Thermal Power Plants High

Mt. Kumgang Hydropower Station: The project employs the method of rechannelling the water course. Construction started in October 1986; progress has been sluggish.

Changja River Swift-Current-Type Hydropower Station: The project consists of more than 20 large and small plants built on the Changja River which runs across Kanggye City. When all of them are completed, the total capacity will surpass that of Kanggye Youth Power Plant (244,000 kw), according to a 12 May, 1991, North Korean broadcast.

East Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant: One of the industrial facilities included in the [former] Soviet Union's assistance program for North Korea under its 12th Five-Year Economic Plan (1986-90), it is being built in Nangnang District, Pyongyang, on a site of 460,000 square meters; its total floor space is 160,000 square meters and its planned capacity is known to be 700,000 kw, which is larger than that of Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant (according to a 15 January, 1991, Radio Moscow broadcast). Construction began in February 1989 and the first-stage construction is still in progress against the original plan that called for completion by 1991.

The December Thermal Power Plant: Located in Chollima District, Nampo City, its projected capacity is 150,000 kw. The construction, launched in January 1987, is still in progress against the original schedule to finish it by the party founding anniversary in October last year. The plant is being built to relieve the power shortages for the Nampo industrial area including the Chollima Steel, Taean Heavy Machinery, and Kumsong Tractor plants, and to make use of waste heat from the plant for room heating at homes in the Nampo area.

Haeju Thermal Power Plant: The construction plan was presented to a plenum of the party North Hwanghae Province Committee held in November 1990 and work began in earnest in 1990. The plan originally called for completion of the first-phase project by 1991, but there was a delay in the designing stage already, among other things (the design was completed in March 1991). As a result, there has been little progress so far.

Anju Thermal Power Plant: This plant is being built to supply energy to industrial centers nearby, using anthracite produced in the Anju area. The projected capacity is as large as 1.2 million kw. Little is known about progress of the project, however.

Nampo Thermal Power Plant: Construction started in December 1989. The initial target was to complete the first-phase project by 1990 but there has been little progress. The projected capacity is 400,000 kw.

Kim Chaek Thermal Power Plant: Although the construction plan was established in 1982, it was not put to work until October 1989. The first-phase capacity is estimated at approximately 50,000 kw.

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Hamhung Thermal Power Plant: The construction plan, established in October 1983, was not put to work until Kim Il-song ordered its implementation during his on-the-site guidance tour in August 1989. Full-scale construction began in October the same year. The projected capacity is estimated at about 150,000 kw.

Chongjin Thermal Power Plant: With the 250,000-kw first-stage project completed in December 1986, the second-stage construction is currently in progress. This plant, together with Kim Chaek Power Plant, is being built to end the power shortages for Chongjin City and the Kim Chaek Iron Complex.

Pyongsong Thermal Power Plant: Construction started in October 1989, on a total space of 49,000 square meters and for a projected capacity of 100,000 kw. It will use anthracite produced from coal mines in the nearby Sunchon area.

Cambodia

Sihanouk, Akashi Address UNTAC Office Opening

BK0608110592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] UNTAC [UN Transitiobnal Authority in Cambodia] civil administration in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province officially opened its office in the afternoon of 5 August in the presence of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], and His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, head of UNTAC. Attending the ceremony as guests of honor were SNC members, SNC Secretariat members, leaders of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, representatives of the armed forces, and many cadres and employees from the provincial seat. Representatives of UNTAC civilian and military personnel and the ambassadors and representatives of foreign embassies and international organizations attached to Cambodia were also on hand.

After the Buddhist monks had chanted a victory prayer in honor of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, H.E. Akashi, and national and international guests and after the flags of the United Nations and SNC had been saluted, Mr. Benny Widyono, head of the UNTAC office in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province presented a brief report to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and H.E. Akashi informing them of the leadership composition and structure of the UNTAC office set up in the province to contribute to the search for peace and national reconstruction.

Afterwards, H.E. Akashi made a speech in which he stressed:

[Begin Akashi recording in English with superimposed Cambodian translation] I am delighted to declare open the UNTAC civil administration's office in Siem Reap Province. Respected Samdech, excellencies, the members of the SNC, excellencies, friends, ladies, and gentlemen: I am especially delighted to be able to attend this ceremony in a corner of Cambodia that is rich in Khmer civilization and history, the famous heart center of the Cambodian empire, and a place of one of the world's wonders—Angkor Wat. The opening of an UNTAC civil administration office in a key province of Cambodia constitutes another gigantic step in our efforts to expand our overall control of Cambodia.

As you know, UNTAC's primary duty at this moment is to urgently deploy the UN forces and civilian police inspection officials. Now that almost all of this task has been fulfilled, we continue to forge ahead in full steam so that our efforts can elicit and maintain a policy of neutrality conducive to free and correct general elections to be held in the country at the end of April and the beginning of May next. We will carry out this duty by applying our control on the structure of all kinds of civil administration that might influence the outcome of a free and fair election.

This office is to be the model of our resolute drive to carry out the assistance of the international community for Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction. Your Highness, ladies, and gentlemen, as all of you know, the other day I also inaugurated an UNTAC office in Kandal Province in the presence of his royal highness the head of state and SNC chairman and other esteemed members of the SNC as well as those of you, ladies and gentlemen, who took part in the inauguration of the UNTAC office in Kandal Province. This office in Siem Reap is to be working not only in the provincial seat alone but all over the province to provide guarantee for all Cambodian people with differing views on politics and to explain the mission, the raison d'etre, the activities, and the [word indistinct] of UNTAC.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure all Cambodians in Siem Reap Province that the director and colleagues of this UNTAC office will do their best to prepare the foundations and rights for a free and fair election next spring. The UNTAC office here will welcome any Cambodian who wishes to have a better understanding about the United Nations, UNTAC, his own rights, the local ruling structures and those of all factions, and the right to self-defense against illegal activities, and it will give him as much information and protection as it can. At the same time, the director and colleagues of this office, with the support of UNTAC forces and civilian police, will ask the local ruling structure to cooperate with UNTAC in any cases of concern to the general public. However, the primary duty of rebuilding the nation should fall on the Cambodian people themselves.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Benny Widyono, an old friend from the New York Office who is appointed director of this bureau, and all his colleagues in this UNTAC civilian administration office. I wish him and his colleagues big successes in all their endeavors. Thank you. [end recording]

On this most auspicious occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk took the floor to make the following speech:

[Begin Sihanouk recording] [applause] I pay my most humble respects to their venerables, the beloved and venerated Buddhist clergy with the honorable head monk of Siem Reap Province as the chairman; my respects to H.E. Yasushi Akashi; my respects to H.E. Widyono; ladies, gentlemen, friends, and all my most beloved and respected compatriots: First of all, I would like to thank H.E. Yasushi Akashi, head of UNTAC and special representative of the UN secretary-general, and the UNTAC team of Siem Reap with H.E. Benny Widyono as the leader for kindly and cordially inviting us Cambodians and especially those of us in the SNC to

attend this most solemn inaugural ceremony of the UNTAC office in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

I would like to avail myself of this propitious occasion to recall that the United Nations and Cambodia in this era are closer to one another than ever because Cambodia which has just recovered peace, stability, national unity, and independence is in great need of the UN assistance to help it maintain this newly restored peace. In this case, all of us, all our factions throughout Cambodia must unite and join hands to rebuild the nation in peace, independence, and freedom.

I am glad to join all of you, dear friends who have come here to the help of Cambodia. And the testimony of the closeness between the United Nations and us can be seen in that our flags have the same color. Why does new Cambodia opt for the UN color? It is because we fully trust that the United Nations will be able to consolidate and develop peace and freedom for the Cambodian people. For this reason, we have asked permission to use the color symbolizing the United Nations as the color of present-day Cambodia's national flag.

I also would like to take this opportunity to express warmest admiration to all excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen present here who represent the United Nations and this UNTAC office. This is because all of you, dear foreign friends from various countries, have come here to help our people recover their happiness and confidence in their own future. As H.E. Yasushi Akashi said in his very nice and highly significant speech, our people in their needs can rely on the United Nations, on this bureau at all times in seeking to clearly understand their liberties, their rights and especially in making preparations for the elections to form a legal parliament and legal government to lead our country toward prosperity and glory as was known in the Angkorian era. [applause]

[Passage indistinct] the SNC and UNTAC. This morning we met to settle a number of problems in the implementation of the Cambodian peace accords that we have signed together with the international community in Paris, capital of the French Republic. What we failed to resolve, the most important issue that we disagreed on was the adoption of a law on free, liberal, democratic elections in 1993 [words indistinct]. We have been working on this law in this city of Siem Reap itself. We have dealt with all the major issues, such as the question [words indistinct] of the Cambodian nation and national reconstruction with the assistance of the international community. [Words indistinct] despite some difficulties we have settled them one after another. Therefore, we can be optimistic about what UNTAC and SNC have been jointly working on. In reality, our joint effort was not a failure, nor was it a publicity stunt. In fact, we did not fail; we succeeded because we made very rapid progress. In other words, our meeting was not without results. We achieved some success, as always. It can be said that we have made progress in the implementation of the Paris accords. Consequently, our future is not gloomy. We can have optimism about our future, so long as the international community does not let us down and so long as the United Nations does not desert us.

I would like to say a few more words. First about H.E. Widyono, who is chosen by H.E. Akashi to lead UNTAC in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey. H.E. Widyono comes from the great country of Indonesia whose history is closely linked to that of our Angkor. About 1,000 years ago brothers from the Javanese empire made contact with the Cambodian kingdom in Angkor. This is a very significant symbol, a meaningful coincidence that H.E. Widyono, too, is also appointed to Angkor.

In conclusion, I would like to warmly extend my best wishes to H.E. Widyono and all ladies and gentlemen attached to UNTAC in Siem Reap and Angkor. May you enjoy great successes forever. [applause] [end recording]

This ceremony ended in a joyous atmosphere replete with a great sense of national and international solidarity after HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and H.E. Akashi had cut the ribbon to symbolize the official opening of the UNTAC office in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Akashi, Japanese Official Discuss SDF Deployment

OW0608154192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1449 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug. 6 KYODO—Shigeru Hatakeyama, director general of the Defense Agency's Defense Policy Bureau, held talks Thursday with Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), on the deployment of members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to help reconstruct Cambodia's infrastructure.

Akashi asked Hatakeyama if Tokyo is ready to dispatch the SDF's engineer unit which UNTAC hopes will help restore national highway Nos. 2 and 3, connecting the capital with the southern region, as well as bridges on the two roads, Japanese officials said. The two national highways are situated in a highly populated grain belt.

Hatakeyama did not make any commitment immediately, they said. He also told Akashi the Japanese Government will shortly send a second survey mission to Cambodia for further consultations. Japanese Ambassador Yukio Imagawa also attended the meeting.

Akashi told Hatakeyama these two areas are relatively safe in Cambodia as there are neither military conflicts nor mines on the two national highways, they said. Bun Akashi added there is nowhere in Cambodia that is 100 percent safe.

Hatakeyama arrived in Phnom Penh on Wednesday to arrange a planned deployment of Japanese peacekeeping troops in the war-torn country. The dispatch of the SDF personnel is expected in mid-October, but their number and area of operation have yet to be decided.

'Full Text' of Khmer Rouge 12 Jul Proposal

BK0408082392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia would like to present the proposal made by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] on 12 July 1992 to verify the PDK's stance.

This proposal has been generally welcomed as a reasonable and fair proposal which should be taken into consideration by the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and Mr. Akashi.

Here is the full text of this proposal:

12 July 1992 proposal of the PDK on the implementation of the second phase of the cease-fire and the regrouping of the PDK's armed forces in cantonments:

I. The fundamental goal of the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 is to restore the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and nonaggression, neutrality, and national unity to Cambodia through strict implementation of the agreement by all signatories.

This goal can be achieved only through the implementation of two key points; that is, on the one hand, for the UNTAC to verify the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn to Cambodia and, on the other, for the Supreme National Council [SNC] to play its role as the legitimate organization and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period in line with the Paris agreement.

The PDK fully supports this goal and all measures stated in the agreement to successfully carry out the above-mentioned two points.

II. With such a sincere aspiration, as a signatory to the Paris agreement, the PDK has persistently emphasized that no government should be allowed to exist in Cambodia during the transitiional period. The PDK is of the opinion that it is imperative to take urgent measures to enable the existing government structures of the four Cambodian factions to function without having to be under the leadership or policy of any government which should no longer exist in Cambodia since the signing of the Paris agreement.

It is with this spirit and in order to smooth the implementation of the second phase of the cease-fire and the regrouping of the four Cambodian factions' forces in cantonments, the PDK deems it necessary to put forth the following proposal as measures that the PDK and Phnom Penh side should accept:

In the first week, the PDK is willing to assemble 10 percent of its armed forces in cantonments if the Phnom Penh side agrees to remove the sectors which hold political power from the ministries of national defense and security. Thus these two ministries will have neither ministers nor deputy ministers.

In the second week, the PDK is willing to assemble another 20 percent of its armed forces in cantonments if the Phnom Penh side agrees to remove the sectors which hold political power from the ministries of foreign affairs and finance. tHus these two ministries will have neither ministers nor deputy ministers.

In the third week, the PDK is willing to assemble another 30 percent of its armed forces in cantonments if the Phnom Penh side agrees to remove the sectors which control political power from the information ministry. Thus, this ministry will have neither ministers nor deputy ministers.

In the fourth week, the PDK is willing to assembly another 40 percent of its armed forces in cantonments if the Phnom Penh side agrees to remove the sectors which hold political power from the National Assembly, the posts of prime minister and chairman of the so-called State of Cambodia, and from various other ministries. Therefore, there will be no more prime minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers, deputy ministers, head of state, nor state or government identity.

In addition to these measures, it is imperative to set up an SNC consultative committee within the existing government structures and within the police force of all Cambodian factions.

It is true that the UNTAC is duty-bound to supervise the existing government structures in line with the Paris agreement.

III. Competent representatives of the four Cambodian factions must take part in the process to assemble the armed forces in cantonments.

The PDK sincerely hopes that all parties concerned will accept the above-mentioned measures for a thorough consideration.

Assembly Hears Socioeconomic, Budget Reports

BK0608143792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] The National Assembly continued its first legislature's 23d plenary session at 1430 on 6 August according to its planned agenda under the chairmanship of His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party and of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia.

The assembly members listened attentively to a report on the implementation of the first six-month socioeconomic plan and work targets for the second six-month plan of 1992 read by Chea Chanto, planning minister. Also, a report on the implementation of the financial and state budget plans in the first six months and work targets for the second six months and the adjustment of the 1992 state budgets was read by Chhay Than, finance minister.

The assembly members also listened to various bills read by Cheam Yiap, director of Cambodian Tourism Department, such as the bill on the amendment of the law on foreign investment in Cambodia, bill on financial institutions, bill on accounting tasks of enterprises, bill on (?housing), bill on establishment and functioning of the Cambodian Civilian Tourism Directorate, bill on amendment to Articles 18, 19, and 20 of law on establishment of the judge and public prosecutor organizations, and bill on work.

The session adjourned at 1700 and will resume tomorrow as scheduled.

Chea Sim's Opening Address

BK0708054192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly, at the opening of the 23d plenary session of the National Assembly held in Phnom Penh on 6 August—recorded]

[Text] Dear prince, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: Today, our National Assembly opens its first legislature's 23d plenary session to sum up and assess the situation regarding the implementation of tasks in all fields in the first half of the year and examine the targets for implementation of socio-economic plan in the second half of 1992 and the years to come.

This session is of special significance and meaning because our country has been and is in a historic period of implementing the second phase of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement with participation and contribution in terms of manpower and financial aid from the international community, particularly the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces from various countries across the world under the leadership of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general.

All National Assembly members welcome, with deep feelings of gratitude, the joint efforts made by the international community, particularly H.E. Yasushi Akashi, representatives of the five countries, cochairmen of the Paris Conference, and all countries concerned which have strived to overcome the obstacles created by some parties, particularly the Khmer Rouge, to continue promoting the concrete implementation of the Paris peace accord.

The resolute determination filled with real courage and patience displayed by the international community constitutes a warm encouragement and guarantee for the Cambodian people.

The Cambodian people would like to express their hope that no force can destroy the present possibility for peace and the process toward peace is certainly irreversible. More magnificently, based on the firm and unanimous confidence in His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the nation, head of state, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], and the prince father of Cambodian national reunification, who is carrying out his outstanding noble mission to achieve national reunification and bring peace to the motherland (?to) rebuild the country prosperously as in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era, the Cambodian people throughnout the country pledge to follow the prince father and to rally the great national unity to quickly end the war.

The entire assembly hails and welcomes the efforts and appropriate contribution made by our cadres, workers, employees, armed forces, and people throughout the country who, in close unity, have assisted the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] in willingly implementing all points of the peace accord.

The SOC Government strictly abides by its resolute stance on implementing the Paris agreement. This is because the Paris agreement is the only good measure to achieve national reunification and peace in Cambodia. In this connection, the SOC Government has never posed itself as a monopolist or speculator in implementing the agreement. On the contrary, it has always been sincere in cooperating with the other Cambodian factions and UNTAC to enable the agreement to be implemented step by step simultaneously.

The SOC Government has never had any desire to discard any Cambodian group from the political solution.

With sincere political desire and firm principled stance on the basis of national reconciliation, we have always upheld national and people's interests above all else by actively taking part in correctly implementing the Paris agreement, thus creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding, mutual trust, and genuine democracy in the society. But we resolutely oppose all forms of military and violent means to realize a political ambition and absolutely oppose the demand to amend the existing spirit of the Paris agreement, an erroneous act aimed at destroying the peace plan for the Cambodian problem.

We welcome all parties to contest in the coming general elections which will be a (?chance) for the Cambodian people to exercise their right to self-determination and a platform to decide Cambodia's political destiny serving as a key to resolve the Cambodian problem.

Providing favorable conditions for the UNTAC forces to carry out their activities everywhere in Cambodia is a collective duty of every Cambodian party. Creating obstacles in whichever form to the peace process is an act which openly opposes the aspiration of the Cambodian people and the whole international community; and this act is tantamount to prolonging the misery and constitutes contempt for the efforts and sympathy of the international community. It is a criminal act against national history.

Ending the sound of gunfire on the battlefield is an indispensable condition to ensure the success of the second phase, that is the gathering and demobilization of forces, to advance toward a free and fair general election in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people need all kinds of aid from the international community for restoring and rebuilding the infrastructures and building a new life toward peace, particularly in this transitional period. The repatriation of refugees from various camps on Thai soil and the 70-percent demobilization of forces together with the consequences arising from war have caused and are still causing acute social-economic problems. Therefore, the kindness and humanitarian spirit of the international community displayed at the Tokyo international conference on 22 June 1992 are certainly very valuable to the bright future of the Cambodian people.

To oppose the development in the national society as in the period of obscurantism is an act against the morality and the aspiration of the Cambodian people. In the war, patriots must make sacrifices. But they must not (?sabotage) peace and the development of their own country. And if they think only of the advantages to gain in the election without thinking of the suffering and poverty of the people, they are certainly not patriots.

Our assembly would like also to extend its welcome to all compatriots who have just returned from the refugee camps in the Kingdom of Thailand, a return which underlines the new phase of national reconciliation and the determination to join hands in restoring and rebuilding the country.

Availing itself of this occasion, our assembly would like to welcome the excellent results of the visit of our SOC high-ranking delegation to the DPRK, PRC, Vietnam, Laos, United States, France, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei. This visit has significantly contributed to the consolidation and expansion of the bond of friendship between the Cambodian people and peoples of those countries which have actively contributed to the implementation of the peace accord.

Dear prince, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as an important driving force in the implementation of the peace agreement, during the first six months of this 1992, our SOC Government has done all it can to fully cooperate with the UNTAC and SNC in implementing all aspects of the peace plan. It has also been very patient to avoid the use of military force. However, the Khmer Rouge have not only refused to implement the agreement, but they have also grossly violated the cease-fire accord, caused countless tragedies to the Cambodian people, and are hampering the peace process.

Despite the obstacles and difficulties caused by the Khmer Rouge, our SOC Government will actively continue to implement the second phase with constructive spirit and sense of responsibility.

The regrouping and demobilization of the SOC forces have been carried out step by step in line with all the points mentioned in the agreement.

The SOC Government would like to express deepest gratitude to members of our armed forces who had served the nation and motherland with lofty spirit of sacrifice and who have willingly and joyfully prepared to return to their localities to reunite with their families and build a new life.

During the first six months of 1992, national achievements in all fields, particularly education and public health have been enhanced. Our people have had the greatest honor to welcome the visit by the prince father ahd his wife during which they inaugurated various public infrastructures. The people in Kompong Cham, Kandal, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Takeo, Kompong Speu, Siem Reap, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kompong Thom, and Kampot Provinces and in Sihanouk City extended warmest welcome to their much-thought-of prince father and his wife. This is an opening of a new page of sharing weal and woe and rallying the great national unity around the father of the nation to reunify the nation and rebuild the country.

Concerning the implementation of the economic and financial plans, the government has strived to surmount countless difficulties to normalize the social life whose needs in all aspects have increased everyday.

The implementation of the free market-economy policy has drawn more investment from foreign countries for serving the interests of our national society. Opposition to social inertia is taking place simultaneously with the efforts to resolve the people's dissatisfaction. Attention is being paid to settling the people's complaints and protests to ensure the legitimacy, truth, and justice in society.

During the first half of 1992, our SOC Government, with lofty sense of responsibility before our national history, has done everything within its capabilities to protect the interests, legal ownership, rights, freedoms, religious belief, honor, and virtue of each of our citizens as well as the public stability, social order, peaceful life, and development.

The SOC Government welcomes all political parties and all Cambodians with correct and sincere desire for national reunification to contest in the coming elections.

We are of the opinion that the international community should take more appropriate measures against any parties which do not implement the Paris accord—the only way toward achieving peace and national reunification.

Dear prince, ladies, and gentlemen, it is in the general situation as mentioned above that today our National Assembly is opening its 23d plenary session to jointly consider and seek effective and prompt measures to surmount all big and small difficulties and obstacles to

the social development as well as to the implementation of the Paris peace agreement.

In this connection, I would like to appeal to all our National Assembly members to please heighten spirit of patriotism and love for the people and actively display your ideas and views so that we can jointly conclude all the remaining big and small points and find a solution which is really effective.

With the firm confidence in the sincere contribution of all National Assembly members and extending my thanks to prince, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen for your presence, I now declare the opening of our 23d National Assembly session. Thank you. [applause]

Indonesia

Iran Supports Jakarta as Host of NAM Summit

BK0708015092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Trade Minister Ariffin Siregar briefed reporters on the outcome of his trip to Nonaligned Movement [NAM] member countries in the Middle East at Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta yesterday. On the occasion, Minister Ariffin Siregar said that Iran has expressed its wish to see Indonesia assume the NAM chairmanship before the start of the 10th NAM summit in September. According to the minister, Iran has also expressed support for Jakarta to be the venue of the 10th NAM summit.

Minister Ariffin Siregar, who went to the Middle East as a special envoy of President Suharto, also disclosed that King Husayn of Jordan said he would be attending the NAM summit in Jakarta.

Agreement With Kuwait in Information Field Seen

BK0608155892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Indonesia and Kuwait have agreed to upgrade bilateral cooperation in the field of information in an effort to create a common stand among the nonaligned countries in the new world order of information and communications. The accord was reached when Information Minister Harmoko received a courtesy visit by his Kuwaiti counterpart Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub who was accompanied by the Kuwaiti ambassador to Indonesia 'Ali Zakariya al-Ansari in Jakarta this afternoon.

Speaking to newsmen after the visit by the Kuwaiti minister, Information Department director general Subrata said there was a possibility that such a cooperation would materialize.

[Begin Subrata recording] First, there is a possibility of the exchange program in the field of the electronic media, particularly in the radio and television sector. Second, there is the possibility of the exchange of journalists between the two countries including visits for the purpose of exchanging information and experiences and planning among the personnel of the mass media and information department. Third, it is hoped that the mentioned cooperation would also be linked to the exchange of the mass media officials of the two countries. [end recording]

Subrata also said during the meeting Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub expressed the hope that, during Minister Harmoko's upcoming visit to Kuwait at his invitation, Minister Harmoko would finalize the agreement and hold talks concerning the exchange of programs via satellite.

Minister Badr, who is on a three-day visit to Indonesia, acknowledged the preparations made by Indonesia for the upcoming nonaligned movement summit—particularly in the field of information.

Editorial on Balanced EC-ASEAN Relationship

BK0708062592 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 27 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Aid and Human Rights"]

[Text] If wire service reports out of Manila are correct, it seems that plans to negotiate a new cooperation agreement between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Community (EC) stranded over the weekend on differences over human rights issues. As the French news agency AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE had it, the pressure was on "to protest the Indonesian human rights violations in East Timor." British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told his Indonesian counterpart during an ASEAN post-ministerial meeting on Friday that Portugal wanted "to signal its objections to Indonesian conduct in its former colony," according to the report.

A number of notes can be made regarding this latest ASEAN post-ministerial conference between the six Southeast Asian countries—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—and some of their major trading partners, including Japan, the United States, Australia, the EC and Canada. First, while the reported impasse is obviously a disappointment after all the time and effort that has been spent working on a new agreement, we believe that plain reason will eventually prevail so that some sort of arrangement may be worked out.

More important from the ASEAN point of view, however, is the desire that any future agreement between ASEAN and the EC must, to borrow Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus' words, "reflect a mature and more balanced relationship." As Manglapus remarked, the prospering Southeast Asian regional organization does attach great importance to its ties with the EC, but wants to elevate those relations from that of a donor-debtor relationship to a higher plane of partnership.

Another point to note is the increasingly explicit linkage which ASEAN's industrialized trading partners are intent on establishing between assistance and the human rights records of the recipient countries. Not surprisingly, all this emphasis on human rights in matters that are at first sight far removed from the issue is a reason for considerable aggravation among ASEAN governments. However, Britain's Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd is probably not far off the truth in saying that although sensitive, the human rights issue is one that "will not go away." Whether we like it or not, it appears that the issue of human rights, together with that of democratization, has already become the wave of the present.

It seems to us that the most sensible way for everybody concerned, in both the developing and the developed countries, to solve the differences is to regard the issue maturely and judiciously. In itself, the West's preoccupation with human rights is of course commendable. It is well for human rights advocates in the industrialized countries to remember, however, that most, if not all, of the youthful countries that saw the light after World War II were born of humanitarian ideals. In other words, the basic notion of human rights cannot be alien to most of the developing countries of the world.

It is, basically and in most cases, the different priorities that are the cause of diverging practices. As Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi put it so aptly, "As far as we are concerned, the individual's rights cannot take precedence over communities' rights." Obviously, there can be no human rights in a backward, poverty-ridden society. The priorities of development sometimes demand that the rights of individuals be made secondary to that of the society.

Of course, there can be excesses and it is these that must be corrected. It is for this reason that we tend to disagree with the Malaysian minister that the right to food and shelter is more important than the freedom of expression—of course, as long as the latter is used responsibly to serve the community's interests. How, then, to make the differing views meet? Oddly, perhaps, it is the British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd who may have provided us with the necessary cue. Hurd said: "We are not talking of the imposition of the values of one section of the world on another section with different values. We are talking about an understanding of shared values and how they can be applied."

Indeed, if only an agreement could be reached over what those shared values are and how they can be applied, most of the differences between the developing world and the industrialized West would melt away. Unfortunately, there seems to lie the difficult part. Even so, we believe that trying to find the answer along such avenues in an amicable manner would be much more effective in ensuring the most appropriate practice of human rights in developing countries than the use of coercive tactics.

Conspiracy Cited in Nomination of Governor

BK0708064092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 27 Jul 92 p 2

[Excerpt] Dili (JP)—Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao says the nomination of the new East Timor governor must be free of political intrigue. Speaking to reporters after inaugurating members of the provincial legislature (DPRD) for the 1992-1997 term, Carrascalao said a conspiracy to assure a particular choice as new governor would destroy the future of the East Timor people.

He said there were signs of a conspiracy where names of candidates who did not understand the aspirations of the East Timor people were being circulated. "If that happens I am going to report to the minister of home affairs and the president," he said.

Carrascalao, whose second term will end this September, told members of the DPRD that they should name candidates who were in touch with the desires of the East Timor people to the central government. He continued that DPRD members must not succumb to pressures from anyone who wanted to nominate candidates who were incompatible with the East Timorese. [passage omitted]

Laos

Kaysone Receives U.S. Envoy, Comments on Ties

BK0708102192 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 7 (KPL)—President Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], yesterday afternoon, granted at the Presidential Palace here separate audiences to the ambassadors of the United States of America, the European Community, and New Zealand to Laos, respectively Mr. Charles B. Salmon, Jr., Mr. Albert Maes, and Mr. Phillip Henry Gibson.

Mr. Charles B. Salmon, Jr. and Mr. Phillip Henry Gibson, on the occasion, presented to President Kaysone Phomvihan their credentials as ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America and New Zealand to Laos.

Mr. Charles B. Salmon, Jr., assuming his post as U.S. charge d'affaires here since October 1989, was appointed as the first U.S. ambassador to Lao PDR following the agreement reached in November last year between Laos and the U.S.A. on raising their diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level.

President Kaysone Phomvihan, talking with the U.S. ambassador, appreciated the upgrading of the diplomatic relations between the two countries from the charge d'affaires to ambassadorial levels, which represents a step toward increasing and promoting the bilateral relations and cooperation.

In his talks to Mr. Phillip Henry Gibson, President Kaysone Phomvihan congratulated him over his appointment as new ambassador of New Zealand to Laos residing in Bangkok, Thailand, and expressed hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between Laos and New Zealand will further develop.

While receiving the EC ambassador, Mr. Albert Maes, who resides in Bangkok, Thailand, President Kaysone Phomvihan extended thanks to the EC for its past and present assistance to national development of Laos. [Kaysone] also congratulated the EC ambassador over his 4-year successful diplomatic mission which, the Lao president said, will contribute to enhancing relations, mutual understanding and cooperation between Laos and the EC.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Burmese Border Delegation

BK0508103692 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 5 (KPL)—Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut today morning received here a visiting delegation of the Myanmar [Burma]-Laos Border Commission headed by its president U Ohn Gyaw, who is also foreign minister of Myanmar.

Phoun Sipaseut, on the occasion, welcomed the current visit to Laos by the Myanmar-Laos Border Commission to discuss with the Lao side the matters concerning border cooperation between the two countries. The sides are continuing their joint operation on the border demarcation in order that it can be basically completed within this year. This will lead to the signing of an historic border treaty between the two countries, aimed at turning their common border [into] a border of genuine peace, friendship and cooperation.

Mr. U Ohn Gyaw and his delegation arrived in Vientiane yesterday afternoon, at the invitation of Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat, who is president of the Laos-Myanmar Border Commission. While here, the Myanmar delegation will attend the third meeting of the border commissions of the two countries to be held today afternoon.

The third meeting was to continue discussing matters concerning the definition of the boundary between the two countries.

This morning, the border commissions of the two sides met before their third meeting this afternoon.

SRV Provincial Delegation Visits Xieng Khouang

BK0708095292 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 7 (KPL)—A high-level delegation of Vietnamese Nghe An Province headed by Mr. Nguyen Ba, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, recently paid an official visit to Xieng Khouang Province at the invitation of this Lao northern province.

During the visit, the Vietnamese delegation was warmly received by Mr. Phoumi Thipphavon, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and governor of Xieng Khouang.

The two sides discussd the promotion of the future mutual coopeation and assistance.

Philippines

CPP Shifts Focus From U.S. to Japanese

HK0708040792 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Aug 92 p 17

[By Dario Agnote]

[Text] The outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has ordered its legal mass organizations to intensify their campaign against "Japanese imperialism" amid declining American military presence in the region.

This was culled from a 12-page document of the National United Front Commission (NUFC) dated June 1992 obtained by the INQUIRER from military sources.

"Japanese imperialism is aggressively acting to consolidate its position in the Philippines," the document said, noting that Japan "supported some candidates during the May 11 polls."

It further noted that Japan has become the leading economic partner of the Philippines. "Japanese imperialism will surely intensify competition in the economic and political front against U.S. imperialism towards an equal or greater influence."

"Japanese imperialism is moving towards a new international strategy and based on this strategy, Japanese imperialism have started to strengthen its military aspect," explained the document, adding that "this new international strategy have influenced and affected the general perception of the Japanese people towards class struggle."

This explains why the local communist insurgents forged an alliance with left-wing workers group like the 300,000-strong ZEN ROKYU—a national alliance of leftist trade unions. Among its affiliate organizations are the KoKoru (former railroad workers), Tororen (local unions of Tokyo municipal government), and Kyoto Sohyo.

The military said the 23-year-old communist insurgency in the country can only count now on Japan and Australia for financial support.

"The solidarity relations between Japan and the Philippines is developing in all levels. However, more has to be

done on the concrete and practical level especially on the open and legal aspect," the debriefing document added.

The document claimed that Japanese investments in Asian countries have become tremendous because of its ability to take advantage of cheap labor and the production of big factories.

P340 Million Loan Agreement Signed With Germany

HK0708044192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Aug 92 p 11

[By Romy V. Mapile]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto R. Romulo and Ambassador Dr. Peter Scholz of the Federal Republic of Germany yesterday signed a P340 million [pesos] project loan agreement that would boost the power supply to Metro Manila.

The agreement between the Department of Finance and the National Power Corp., on one hand, and the Kreditanstalt Fuer Wiederaufbau (KFW) of Frankfurt/Main, on the other, is part of a P1.7-billion financing for the Sucat Transformer Substation Project.

The project construction involves the expansion and modernization of the transmission lines from the existing substations in Sucat and Balintawak, covering a distance of 34 kilometers and a new substation building in Sta. Mesa.

The terms for the loan—0.75 percent interest rate and 40-year maturity, including 10 years grace period—are believed to be the most favorable arrangement for an RP [Republic of the Philippines] energy supply development program.

Guidelines Set for Relations With South Africa

HK0708044892 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 7 Aug 92 p 12

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] yesterday convened an interagency meeting to set guidelines for the country's dealings with South Africa.

Despite significant moves by Pretoria to dismantle the system of apartheid, black opposition leader Nelson Mandela has urged the world to keep economic and political sanctions in place until its black population is assured of proportionate political representation.

The Philippines has taken cognizance of Pretoria's initial steps by removing restrictions on travel for private individuals. However, DFA officials were taken aback when some Trade and Labor officials made recent statements indicating that trading and deployments of Filipino workers would soon begin. To ensure that no confusing signals are sent, the DTI [Department of Trade Industry] DOLE [Department of Labor and Employment], POEA [Philippine Overseas Employment Authority] and the DOTC [Department of Tranportation Communication] were presented at yesterday's meeting.

The head of the DFA's Office of United Nations and International Organizations, Reynaldo Arcilla, told reporters yesterday that trade sanctions remain in place and the only deployments possible are those of "seamen because we can't really stop the ships they're serving aboard from docking at this or that destination."

The talks in the UN Committee on the Democratization of South Africa (CODESA) have deadlocked on the composition of a transition government which will include larger numbers of blacks and the drawing up of a new, non-racist Constitution for that country.

Until the CODESA stalemate is broken, the status quo stands, the Philippine official said. "We have a moral responsibility...to see this thing through because the Philippines was one of the founding members of the Un Committee Against Apartheid," Mr. Arcilla pointed out.

"It is inevitable that the black majority will control the South African government, so it is to our long term interests...political and economic, to wait this thing out," the DFA official said.

"Once the transition government is in place, we will establish diplomatic ties. We can normalize trade and we can explore its labor market. South Africa might need some skilled and professional workers but we ensure that we do not take jobs which can be filled by blacks," he said.

Ramos Backed on National Identification System

HK0708042692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 Aug 92 p 6

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] President Ramos has assured legislators his administration would never attempt to restore authoritarian rule in the country.

The President made the assurances at a joint Cabinet-Senate meeting at Malacanang Wednesday, after some senators raised concern over his policies and proposals in Congress to enact laws strengthening the security and intelligence apparatus.

Quoting the President, Presidential Spokesman Annabelle Abaya told reporters Mr. Ramos assured the senators that "I will be the very first one to leave here if there will be moves to restore authoritarian rule in the country."

Abaya said the President persuaded the senators to back his administration's legislative agenda, including measures to establish greater political stability and revive the economy through new taxes.

Abaya said the President's role in defending the previous administration from at least seven coup attempts and his decision to seek the presidency through the ballot and not the barrel of the gun were just two of numerous proofs of his adherence to constitutional process.

The senators, like Sen. Blas Ople, have raised concern over growing militarization in the new administration, including the setting up of a new identification [ID] card system and the National Security Council [NSC] and intelligence community.

Mr. Ramos has issued a directive revitalizing the intelligence community by asking NSC Director General Jose Almonte to reorient the spy network activities toward trade and economy.

Sen. Santanina Rasul, for her part, has proposed reviving a pending bill in Congress calling for a national ID system.

Abaya said the ID system would not be used to spy on the people and as a counterinsurgency tool, but rather, to monitor crimes, specially tax evasion.

She said the legislators were convinced the ID system and other bills seeking to establish greater political stability were not tools by the administration to impose authoritarian rule.

She added that Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was also in favor of the ID system, which he defended as necessary and similar to the social security and tax identification numbers people regularly got from the government.

Abaya said the President also assured the senators his directive expanding the NSC role did not mean there would be spying on the bureaucracy and the people.

Actually, the President wanted to remove that notion and instead, professionalize the intelligence community, she added.

Budget Seen as 'Growth-Inhibited,' Not 'Oriented'

HK0608085492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 Aug 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Ramos Budget Is Growth-Inhibited]

[Text] The first budget of the Ramos administration is described as "growth-oriented." This is a mesmerizing label, but if we examine the budget closely, it could properly be described as an instrument for inhibited growth. It is a timid and conservative budget, in its capacity both to generate growth and to induce social reform. There are increases in allocation of resources, according to sectors and line agencies. The perspective from which to view this budget and make sense of it is the distribution of allocations and their corresponding increases so as to determine who gets what, who gains and who loses—in short, the relative winners and losers.

Budgets are important instruments not only as an agent for growth and national development, but more so as a document for redistribution of resources. Governments guided by well-defined ideological orientations—such as those in continental Europe and even Britain—use more than we do the budget as the instrument for redistribution and for social change within a democratic context. This means that there are alternatives to violent social revolution to effect change or transformation of societies, and one of the more effective ways is the budget.

In this connection, we have to emphasize that replacement is different from transformation. Some revolutions, such as the French Revolution and the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, were events that replaced systems and destroyed ruling classes. They were not merely transformations, and, as a general rule, replacements of the social order bring violent upheavals. By contrast, transformation involves non-violent change, often produced by social pacts or consensus.

The question to ask, therefore, is whether the Ramos government is using the budget creatively as a democratic instrument to reallocate resources to promote change or reform. More specifically, we should ask if the government understands and appreciates the concept that the budget is the most effective tool available to a democratic system to implement its objectives of promoting growth as well as equity. In this budget, equity suffers, and the resources allocated for growth are so skewed that the distribution of budgetary expenditures becomes a constraint to growth. The fact that he is asking a budget of P330 billion [pesos], a rise of P7 billion from the budget prepared by the Aquino government, or an increase of 2.17%, does not adequately support the claim that the budget is "growth-oriented."

Consider these points:

1. The allocation for servicing foreign debt remains at a high level—39% of the entire budget. It takes the lion's share of the budget. Economic services which should be the engine of growth, take only 18.6%, or less than half the share of debt service. Social services take 21.4%; general public services, 11.9%; and defense, 9.1%.

2. This distribution of shares tells us the priorities of this government, and there is little change in the pattern of allocations compared with the budgets of the Aquino government.

3. In Philippine budget making procedure, the clue to the importance of equity relative to other policy goals is the allocation for social services. The relative distribution in the entire spectrum of sectors, from debt servicing to public services, remains basically the same as in the budgets of the Aquino government. Therefore, despite the claim by the Ramos administration that it is promoting "people empowerment," an equity may not be attainable through his budget. The fulfillment of these goals may come from other sources and events—such as more foreign borrowing and larger foreign investment flows—and not from the budget.

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Capital formation is rendered more difficult by the relatively bigger allocation for debt service than for other sectoral spending. We have to grow within that tight constraint in which about 40% of budget goes to paying debts.

4. About P7.4 billion was added to capital outlays, originally P44.4 billion, or a rise to 3.3% of GNP from 2.8% of GNP in the 1992. This means a net increase of less than 1% which is not much. This would, however, increase the state's public investment program in 1993 to 5.8% of GNP, from 5.3% in 1992, a marginal increase.

5. True, there is an emphasis in the budget on infrastructure, which is critically important as a platform for industrial expansion, and this emphasis is backed by the increase in the allocation for foreign-assisted projects by some P7.5 billion, from P19.8 billion to P27.3 billion. This increase, we agree, has a multiplier effect and can avert stoppages of projects now under way. This could increase our capacity to match with counterpart funds foreign-assisted projects, thereby helping ease the bottleneck in the aid pipeline. The clogging of this pipeline has been the major cause of our low absorption capacity of aid under the multinational Philippine Aid Program (PAP).

6. But the percentage share of social services for 1993 dropped 1.2% relative to last year's, and that for economic services dropped 2.2%.

In summary, the continuing largest share of debt service in the budgetary pie indicates that the orthodoxy represented by the approach of the Aquino government in the payment of debt remains unchanged. This explains why the new team of Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario and Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia is not any bolder or more innovative than the team of former Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Mr. Cuisia.

The potential of the budget as a catalyst for economic transformation is not being used fully. There is little creativity in harnessing this potential. Equity remains a pipe dream and a temple for lip-service and will have to wait until the economy grows dynamically. That growth will not be dramatically facilitated by this budget. External factors will, such as foreign investment, but that panacea depends upon a lot of factors, not least a more coherent economic policy and a bolder executive team. This is not happening, what with the early turmoil and struggle for control of terrain inside the Ramos cabinet.

Ramos Keeps Executive Secretary Despite Criticism

HK0608090692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 Aug 92 p 1

[By Booma Cruz]

[Text] President Ramos has rejected the offer of Acting Executive Secretary Peter Garrucho to resign despite mounting criticisms of him for two fast-tracked orders that benefited big business.

High government sources said yesterday the President was convinced that Garrucho had "clean intentions" and that a campaign was afoot to make trouble within his Cabinet by imputing motives to actions taken by some of its members.

Moreover, they said, Mr. Ramos felt changes in the Cabinet for an administration just over a month old don't seem right. Press Secretary Rodolfo Reyes felt the same: "It's too soon to speak of a Cabinet revamp." He said that in any case he was not aware whether Garrucho had indeed resigned.

Garrucho attracted criticisms for two orders issued "by authority of the President": one would extend the term of duty-free importation of cement, a privilege shared by cement manufacturers themselves; the other would exempt the mining industry from the 10% value-added tax (VAT) and refund the P2 billion [pesos] it has paid in such tax.

The President has cut the term of the duty-free privilege from three years to one and suspended the second order.

Mr. Ramos, the sources said, revealed his intention to keep Garrucho at a meeting with members of the Senate in Malacanang yesterday. One senator who asked not to be named quoted the President as saying, "Some people are just trying to make us fight," a senator, who requested anonymity, quoted the President.

A former military official close to the President said Mr. Ramos believed the justification given by Garrucho in exempting the mining industry from VAT to be valid—that its gold sales to the Central Bank, the exclusive buyer under the law, may be considered "constructive exports" and therefore not covered by VAT. "Tama naman daw [Ramos said it was justified], but the issue was not explained," he said.

Garrucho's point is supported by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon.

But Commissioner Jose Ong of the Bureau of Internal Revenue [BIR] disagrees, contending that the sales were not meant as exports. Ong has further pointed out that it is the tax courts, not Garrucho, that have the authority to reverse any BIR ruling.

Other critics have raised a point of propriety, pointing out that Garrucho has shares at the Lepanto Mining Co., one of the beneficiaries of his order. He has denied any selfish interest, however, and given assurances he will divest himself of them within the 60 days given him and other Cabinet members to do that.

Meanwhile, Secretary Ramon del Rosario has promised that the VAT issue would be resolved within the week in a way that would "make everybody happy."

All this, however, is not likely to stop both houses of Congress from looking into Garrucho's case, more specifically into what they feel to be a reckless use of the President's authority.

Some members of Congress have expressed the suspicion that the practice is a carryover from the administration of Mrs. Corazon Aquino, in which Garrucho also served.

Ramos Appoints New Air Force Commander in Chief

HK0608131892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos appointed today Brigadier General Leopoldo Acot Jr, Air Force vice commander, as the new Air Force chief. General Acot replaces outgoing Air Force chief, Lieutenant General Loven Abadia, who is retiring from the service on Saturday, 8 August. Acot is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1960 and the Philippine Air Force Flying School Class of 1962. The new Air Force chief will assume office on Saturday in a turnover ceremony to be led by General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff.

Defense Secretary Denies Intention To Meet Sison

HK0608080892 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 6 Aug 92 p 12

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa belied earlier reports Government would send three cabinet members, himself included, to join special government peace negotiator Rep. Jose Yap to Tarlac for a trip to Utrecht to conduct preliminary negotiations with CPP chief Jose Ma. Sison.

Reports the other day claimed the defense chief would join Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Rafael Alunan III and Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon during the purported peace mission.

Mr. de Villa denied the reports, saying: "No such move is being considered and the reports are rather inaccurate."

"At the moment, intervention by the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the peace process is limited to conducting a thorough study of the national security implications of the whole peace initiative, which includes the amnesty proposal," he clarified.

The defense secretary added the defense-military establishment welcomed Rep. Yap's initiatives and was prepared to extend "appropriate support as may be required by law and higher civilian authorities." He also remarked the special DND/AFP committee, which he formed on his own initiative and which is chaired by Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis, would soon submit its recommendations to President Ramos.

Communists Question Credibility of Amnesty Offer

HK0708020592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] In the latest Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front [CPP-NDF] statement, spokesman Frank Fernandez said the amnesty offer and the proposed legalization regarding the CPP shows that President Fidel V. Ramos does not fully understand the rebel movement's cause.

Fernandez said it is clear the Ramos administration has no intention of achieving peace through negotiation of a political settlement that will address the roots of the war being waged by the New People's Army.

He said the communists did not declare war just to be legalized.

The NDF also questioned the Ramos administration's credibility in offering peace, citing the fact that the present officials had already betrayed the rebels' trust.

The NDF also said that President Ramos' State of the Nation address did not mention the negotiations for peace and political stability, which the revolutionary forces also want.

Rebel Soldiers Ready To Help Solve Kidnap Cases

HK0708111492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] The Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldier of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] has expressed its readiness to help the Presidential Anticrime Commission [PACC] in order to thwart operations of the kidnap-for-ransom gang.

In an interview with DZRH, former Colonel Billy Bibit said it is unfair for the government to involve them [rebel soldiers] in recent kidnappings of prominent Chinese businessmen in Metropolitan Manila.

According to Bibit, the RAM-SFP-YOU is willing to help the PACC, which is led by President Joseph Estrada, in order to bar the kidnap syndicate's operations, as well as prevent further blame being cast on the rebel soldiers. Bibit says:

[Begin Bibit recording] I believe that my former men who are still in service will surely help me when I need them, especially if it is for a good cause. They will not deny me their assistance. [end recording]

Thailand

Minister Expects U.S. To Relent on Trade Issue

BK0708031392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Aug 92 p B1

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister Pridiyathon Thewakun expects that the United States will withdraw Thailand from the list of Priority Foreign Country (PFC), in a move which will deliver Thailand from the thorny issue of trade retaliation under the Section 301.

The Deputy Commerce Minister believes that the United States will not use the copyrights and patent protection for pharmaceuticals as an excuse to take

unilateral trade protection measures against Thailand, although the labour issue remains a snag.

"I have a feeling that the US attitude at this time is not aggressive. It seems to understand our position, which has led to a belief that Thailand would not be dropped from the Generalised Preferences System (GSP) tax privilege," Mr Pridiyathon asserted.

His expectations were raised after a meeting yesterday with senior US representatives. The group was led by Deputy US Trade Representative [USTR] Michael Moskow and included US Ambassador David Lambertson, Deputy Assistant USTR Robert Cassidy, John Medeiros, economic councilor, and Janet Malkemes, an official from the US State Department.

He said although the US did not say whether the measures would be imposed, he expected further discussions would lead to a positive conclusion.

"We had a very good discussion," said Moskow after the two-hour talk. However, he declined to elaborate on the details.

"The United States would not use the copyright and patent protection as a means to impose retaliatory measures against Thailand, but there remains the issue of labour, which the US Trade Representative will discuss with the Foreign Minister this afternoon," Mr Pridiyathon said.

Thailand has come under strong pressure from the United States in recent years to strengthen copyright enforcement to protect US intellectual property rights. The alternative was to face possible trade retaliation under Section 301 of the US trade law.

One of the main features of intellectual property rights is patent protection. The US Trade Representative called for Thailand's patent law to be amended to contain a provision for a "pipeline period" or transitional protection for pharmaceutical products that are in the development state or those that are patented abroad but not yet marketed in Thailand.

"The US expressed their 'understanding' to the Thai government, since we are not in a position to make such a commitment on the grounds that we currently don't have the Parliament to endorse legislative amendments," Mr Pridiyathon said.

"Our stance is clear. Any agreement to be made in the future should fall under the international agreement of the Uruguay Round. And we cannot commit ourselves to other regulations. This which is realised by the US," he said.

Mr Pridiyathon, however, declined to speculate whether the US would change its attitude if the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade fails, but said that he was assured by the US that the GATT talks would resume again in September and would resume again in September and to be completed in December.

"It was a strong recommendation from the US Trade Representative which showed that the US has a political will to settle the GATT dispute," he said. The Uruguay Round will proceed from where it was obstructed rather than from the beginning again, he added.

Mr Pridiyathon said that the meeting did not focus only on intellectual property or copyright law as demanded by the US, because the Thai delegation requested that other commercial issues which would benefit Thailand should also be tabled for discussion. "The areas of discussion should be beneficial for both sides," he said.

He added that the USTR will send its staff to talk on various specific issues with its Thai counterpart afterwards. The USTR team in charge of the service and financial sectors will talk with Thai officials today and the US team in charge of intellectual property is due to meet with the Deputy Permanent Secretary Kroekkrai Chiraphaet by the end of this month.

The deputy commerce minister called on the US to push for a successful Uruguay Round, which will benefit Thailand in terms of farm liberalization. The Thai negotiator also asked to have the bilateral agreement on textiles fall under the GATT international agreement.

The Thai side asked the US to liberalize textile exports under the framework of GATT. "The existing Multi-Fibre Arrangement between Thailand and the US should be suspended when it expires in December," he said.

Washington has also asked Thailand to open up the service and the banking sectors.

Paper Examines 'Political Lethargy' in Bangkok

BK0708015592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Aug 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Political Lethargy in the Bangkok Electorate"]

[Text] If education, income and access to information are the chief determinants of political participation, then Bangkok should have the highest voter turnout in every general election in Thailand. For, on average, Bangkokians receive the highest education and income, and enjoy the widest access to information.

Yet voter turnout in most elections in Bangkok is usually less than 50 per cent of those who are eligible. In 1978, turnout was only 22.56 per cent; in 1976, 29 per cent. In the polls on March 22 1992, it reached 42.57 per cent—still the lowest in the country and 16.67 per cent below the national average. Nearly two million of the 3.34 million eligible voters in the capital metropolis simply did not bother to exercise their voting right. Why? Illness and absence from Bangkok on election day may account for the non-voting of a few thousand eligible voters. Naturalized Thais, particularly Chinese businessmen who have acquired Thai citizenship for

business purposes, seldom vote in any election because many of them cannot read the Thai language.

What are some of the other constraints to voting in Bangkok? Transportation difficulties and bad weather are minor inconveniences but hardly comparable to the provinces where voters sometimes have to spend several hours traveling to and from their polling stations. If Bangkokians can brave the horrendous traffic to take advantage of department store sales on any given day, they should be able to make it to their local neighbourhood polling stations on voting day, which is always on Sunday.

A small minority of Bangkokians do work on Sunday. These people can still vote before going to work if they really make an effort to do so. Polling stations are open from 8 am till 3 pm. All employers are obliged by law not to punish employees who are late because they have been voting.

Therefore, it would appear that a large majority of the city's non-voters really have no good excuse for "sleeping on their voting right." They either feel they have better things to do, or they just do not see any use in voting. In either case, the malady is a form of political lethargy, which is a serious threat undermining Thailand's parliamentary democracy.

One could argue that the low voter turnout in Bangkok is more "natural" than the high turnout in the provinces. There is certainly a great deal of truth to this argument. It is common knowledge that vote-buying and electoral fraud were serious problems in the provinces in recent general elections. It is no accident that provinces with unusually high turnout are those in the poor, arid Northeast and the mountainous North.

Mukdahan came first in the March 22 election with 87 per cent turnout—more than double the turnout in Bangkok—followed by Nan with 84 per cent, Phrae with 80 per cent, and Loei with 78 per cent. Yasothon was also in the top five, with 77 per cent. In these provinces, many polling stations recorded a 100-per cent turnout within just a few hours after voting began.

Yet no authorities ever seemed to suspect fraud, nor were those villages where every eligible voter showed up early to vote investigated. These villages must be targets for closer observation by the Poll Watch's volunteers in the upcoming polls on Sept 13.

If Poll Watch is able to do its job effectively—and we have reason to expect it will, due to firm backing from the Anan 11 administration and support from the military—we can expect to see a voter turnout in all the provinces that previously registered unusually high turnouts.

In Bangkok, the outlying constituencies normally report a higher turnout than those in the inner city. In the previous polls, Nong Chok, Min Buri and Lat Krabang topped the list with slightly more than 5 per cent turnout. Dusit had the lowest, only 27 per cent; Rajthevi reported 29 per cent and Pathumwan, 31 per cent. Nong Chok, Min Buri, and Lat Krabang have Kamnan and Phuyai Ban (community and village leaders employed by the Bangkok government) who have some influence in leading local people to vote. But Dusit, Ratthewi, and Pathumwan are urban areas without Kamnan and Phuyai Ban. In the provinces, Kamnan and Phuyai Ban, more often than not, serve as vote canvassers for wealthy politicians.

Affinity between Bangkokians and their MPs is also weak. Few of them can name up to 10 of the 35 Bangkok MPs elected in the previous polls. Fewer still have ever sought help from these politicians when they had a grievance of some sort. And prominent politicians elected in Bangkok, like Maj Gen Chamlong Srimuang of Phalang Tham Party and Samak Suntharawet of Prachakon Thai, would tend to concentrate on national issues and thus have little time for mundane problems from their constituents.

Now a group of business leaders and academics has formed "Bangkok 51" in an effort to stimulate Bangkokians to vote in the upcoming polls. The group hopes to see the turnout exceed 50 per cent for a change. This may be an unreachable goal, but it is worth trying for.

First, the group must figure out how to lure the habitual non-voters to their polling stations. Appealing to their sense of civic duty may be insufficient. Some tangible incentives for the voters, such as a whole-day free bus ride pass, a special discount coupon for gasoline or some kind of sweepstakes ticket may be needed. A low turnout in the upcoming polls could be taken as a worrisome signal—that Bangkokians do not really care much about making parliamentary democracy work after all. Such political lethargy is inexcusable and detrimental to the political system in the long run. Every party must make it a high-priority concern to encourage more Bangkokians to set a good example for their fellow countrymen by voting on Sept 13.

Vietnam

Spokeswoman on POW's, Cam Ranh Bay, Refugees

BK0608155492 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 6—Mrs. Ho The Lan, spokeswoman of the Foreign Ministry, held a regular press conference here this afternoon.

Asked by VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY to comment on a report by the Voice of America on August 5, 1992 that a hearing of the US Senate Select Committee on the MIA/POW Issue on August 4, Senator Robert Smith, vice chairman of the committee, stated that some reports

indicated that Vietnam had detained American prisoners of war at a secret prison in Hanoi after the end of the war in 1973, Mrs Ho The Lan said:

'We have many times reaffirmed that right after the Paris agreement on Vietnam was signed in 1973, the Vietnamese Government returned to the US Government all American prisoners captured during the war'. The fact is that since October 1988 US and Vietnamese experts have cooperated in investigating hundreds of cases of Americans missing in action during the war including live-sighting reports.

But no evidence has been found about American POWs still detained after 1973. This has also been confirmed time and again by many officials of the US Government. All reports on Vietnam's continued detention of American prisoners after the war are out-and-out fabrications motivated by bad intents.

Senator Robert Smith's statement did not help in any way the process of settlement of the MIA issue at present. Asked by Akahata to comment on an alleged statement of the Russian foreign minister at Manila on July 22, 1992 that Russia had proposed that the military base in Cam Ranh of the former Soviet Union be transformed into a common base for the ASEAN naval forces, Mrs Lan said: 'We have read carefully the official speech of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev at the consultative meeting with the ASEAN foreign ministers in Manila on July 22. We found no such passage as mentioned by the correspondent, so we have no grounds to make any comment thereupon'.

A correspondent of the Japan NDN agency asked about Vietnam's views on Russia's wish to continue to use the Cam Ranh base. The spokeswoman said: 'Cam Ranh is a port of Vietnam. Under an agreement reached previously between Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, Vietnam allowed Soviet vessels to enter the port for logistical supply. Nowadays, the situation has changed. Vietnam holds that the two countries should meet to discuss a new agreement suitable to the situation in each country as well as the development in the region and in the world. I think that the Russian side shares this view'.

Asked by a correspondent of the 'Voice of Vietnam' radio to comment on an assertion by the Asia Watch organisation quoted by BBC that a number of Vietnamese boat people sent back to Vietnam from Hong Kong would certainly be punished and even executed by the government, Mrs. Ho The Lan said she was surprised at this groundless assertion.

She said: 'Officials of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission on Refugees], international organisations and concerned countries as well as many foreign journalists who had met with families of the repatriates have all observed that nobody has been subjected to ill treatment or discrimination of any kind. The fact is that the Vietnamese Government has appiied a very lenient and human policy toward the repatriates from Hong Kong, has created every possible condition for them to find jobs, train and join in projects funded by international organizations with a view to their early stabilisation and reintegration. Obviously, Asia Watch's allegations do not contribute to the settlement of this very sensitive humanitarian issue'.

Economic Delegation's Visit to PRC Reported

BK0608132492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] On 28 July in Beijing, Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yilin, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China [CPC] Central Committee, received Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, who is leading a Vietnamese delegation on a visit to China. Also attending the reception were the head of the CPC Central Committee Foreign Relations Department and the minister in charge of the state commission on economic reform. Besides touring Beijing, the delegation also toured a number of other cities.

Delegation Returns From PRC

BK0608155592 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 6: A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee's Economic Commission led by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the commission returned here yesterday from a visit to China from July 26.

On July 28, the delegation was received in Beijing by Wu Xueqian, Politburo member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice premier, who expressed wishes for more meetings between leaders of the two countries, thus developing the relations between the two parties and states.

The delegation had working sessions with the head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee, Zhu Liang, and the head of the State Commission for Restructuring Economic System, Chen Jinhua.

The delegation also visited Guangzhou, Nanning, Hainan, Shanghai.

Cambodia's UN Peacekeeping Chief To Visit Hanoi

BK0708023092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0206 GMT 7 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 6 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi arrives here Saturday two weeks after the massacre of two Vietnamese families in the country, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman revealed here Thursday. Akashi, who heads the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), will be accompanied

by Lieutenant-General John Sanderson of Australia, Cambodia's U.N. military commander, said Ho The Lan.

The discussions will concern "the problems arising from Vietnam's cooperation with UNTAC in the implementation of the Paris peace accord for Cambodia," she said.

Cambodia's peace process has been blocked by the Khmer Rouge who refuse to disarm in accordance with the second phase of the plan, before the dismantling of the Phnom Penh government installed after the Vietnamese invasion of 1978. Akashi has already stated however, that the dismantling of the Phnom Penh government was not part of the accord signed in Paris in October. The government was to stay in place as "an administrative structure" he said, under the control of UNTAC, he said.

The Khmer Rouge also claims that Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia despite the official military withdrawal of 1989, and despite United Nations assertions that there is no proof of a continued Vietnamese presence.

The U.N. visit comes just over two weeks after the massacre of two Vietnamese families in southeast Cambodia, both Hanoi and Phnom Penh attribute the killings to the Khmer Rouge. After the massacre, Vietnam demanded U.N. protection of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

"Being a signatory to the Cambodian peace accord, Vietnam wants this accord to be implemented," the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. She denounced the Khmer Rouge policy as an attempt "to revise and amend the Paris accord."

"Those who wish to obstruct the peace process have not hidden their real aims in reiterating their allegations over the presence of Vietnamese troops," she said, "they are propagating the same racial discrimination manifested in the massacre of Vietnamese residents," she added.

Thai Ambassador Highlights Economic Relations

BK0608133792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Aug 92

["Excerpts" of interview with Thai Ambassador to SRV Suraphong Chaiyanam by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; Thai Ambassador's recorded remarks in Vietnamese fade into English translation by announcer]

[Text] [Announcer] On current Thai-Vietnamese relations, the ambassador states:

[Suraphong] In the recent past, especially the last two years, the relationship between Thailand and Vietnam has become closer. Misunderstandings between the two have greatly been eliminated. The relations between the two countries have flourished in terms of both scope and scale because these relations are based on mutual understanding. Although at present there are still some differences on some issues between the two governments, they do not present an obstacle to the development of bilateral relations. I am confident that our relations will further develop.

The Thai ambassador also said that in the past, government officials of the two countries have exchanged visits in order to seek ways to expand the cooperative relations between the two countries for mutual benefit. In the past 10 months, there were a series of meetings between Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Premier Vo Van Kiet with their Thai counterparts. These developments reflect the two countries' leaders desire to advance bilateral relations in a more concrete way. In fact, Vietnam and Thailand are two close neighbors. The economic cultural relations between the two countries in the past have obtained fervent successes. Two way trade exchanges in 1991 increased remarkably in comparison with those of the period from 1981-1990. So far, more than 100 Thai companies have made contact with Vietnamese partners to seek business opportunities. The two countries have held talks on measures to enlarge their relations on trade, economic, science and technology, and tourism in the coming years. Relations between Vietnam and Thailand, which are based on equality and mutual benefit, fully respond to the aspirations of the two peoples. Public opinion in Thailand seems to agree that the relationship between the two countries has contributed to developing Thailand's economy and helped Vietnam's efforts to do business with foreign countries. The Thai prime minister has said that building Vietnam's economy to change it positively benefits the consolidation of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand

BK0608160192 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 6: From July 23-August 4, chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet had holidays in Malaysia at the invitation of Premier Mahathir Mohamad, and paid unofficial visits to Thailand and Indonesia.

While in these countries, Chairman Vo Van Kiet met with Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad, Indonesian President Suharto, and Thai Premier Anan Panyarachun. They exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern, and measures to promote bilateral cooperation in conformity with the development in the region and in each country's interests. The Malaysian, Indonesian and Thai leaders expressed their support for the position of goodwill of Vietnam to solve disputes in the eastern sea through peaceful negotiation. Vietnam's position is in harmony with that of the ASEAN countries raised at the recent ASEAN summit.

In Malaysia, Chairman Vo Van Kiet also met with senior officials of various ministries and major economic groups, and exchanged views with them on national financial formation and management, monetary polices, foreign investment, and joint ventures between the two countries in cement production, tourism, oil and gas industry, and infrastructural building.

In Indonesia, President Suharto assured the Vietnamese chairman of his country's continuation to extend special cooperation and assistance to Vietnam in the fields of agriculture and family planning including exchanges of experience and personnel training. Chairman Vo Van Kiet and President Suharto agreed to continue exchanges of views in order to find out appropriate steps to settle the two countries' overlapping territory claims.

In Thailand, host and guest reached agreement on some issues such as cooperation in fishing in the territorial waters bordering the two countries, the need to establish order in this region and the stepping up of exchanges of views to identify areas of overlapping claims, and cooperation in exploiting these areas. They also discussed how to promote economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, in particular the use of Thailand's 150 million baht credit to Vietnam's economic programmes.

Promoted by goodwill to boost bilateral relations, Thailand agreed to return to Vietnam 30 Vietnamese citizens, and the Vietnam for its part will return more than 50 Thai fishermen. Chairman Vo Van Kiet renewed Vietnam's invitation of Thai Princess Sirinthon for a visit to Vietnam.

Chairman Kiet was back here yesterday afternoon.

Vo Chi Cong Speaks at War Invalids Conference

BK0608142792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Speech by Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, at the second national conference of representatives of typical war invalids and families of fallen heroes held at Ba Dinh conference hall in Hanoi on 26 July 92—recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades representing war invalids and the families of fallen heroes:

I warmly welcome you to this conference and through you, I cordially convey to all the disabled and sick soldiers and the families of fallen heroes nationwide the best and most intimate regards of the party Central Committee and the Council of State.

Throughout their decades-long struggle under the leadership of the party and of esteemed Uncle Ho, our people experienced countless hardships and sacrifices and won a glorious victory, bringing peasants and workers together and ushering the country into an era of independence and freedom in the advance toward socialism for the happiness of the entire people at present and for posterity.

To achieve what we have been enjoying, hundreds of thousands of the outstanding sons of the fatherland have sacrificed their lives. Our fatherland and our people will forever remember and engrave in their hearts the meritorious deeds of these fallen heroes. Our party, state, and people regard the tasks of caring for and providing assistance to disabled and sick soldiers and the families of fallen heroes as an honor and also a duty.

Over the past several decades, despite countless difficulties encountered by the country, the party and the state have always attached importance to the task of caring for the families of fallen heroes, for disabled and sick soldiers, and for those with meritorious deeds toward the revolution. The party and the state have adopted appropriate lines and policies suitable to the situation and capabilities of the country.

We have introduced many policies and systems such as the policy on pension for the disabled, the system of compensation for death paid to those families of fallen heroes, many preferential treatment policies toward war invalids and the families of fallen heroes in production, travel, education, and medical treatment; the setting up of various war invalids nursing units and those nursing establishments for the parents of fallen heroes and for children fathered by fallen heroes, the expansion of rehabilitation centers, and the establishment of many war invalids-run production establishments. All these are designed to create conditions for war invalids to stabilize their lives, improve their living standards, and continue to contribute their parts to national reconstruction.

I warmly commend you, those elders, brothers, and sisters who have gone through the struggle full of hardships and sacrifices and have dedicated your lives and your youthfulness to the fatherland's independence and freedom. You, with a glorious and proud past, are now continuing to make your valuable contributions to society in various areas of work and in various sectors and localities throughout the country.

Dear comrade delegates: The unanimous cooperation among the party, the state, mass organizations, and benefit policy recipients in caring for war invalids and for those families of fallen heroes and of those families with their meritorious deeds toward the revolution has helped strengthen the unity among the entire people and generate a great strength in the maintenance of political and social stability.

We respect and foster these achievements and will join hands in doing this task more sactisfactorily in the period ahead.

Apart from those achievements gained in the past, there are still certain deficiences and shortcomings to be

overcome. For instance: The state has been slow in revising and supplementing a number of policies to suit the new national situation. Busying itself with implementing a number of new economic policies, the state has not revised those welfare policies toward war invalids and fallen heroes. A number of irrational policies toward war invalids and fallen heroes have not been promptly corrected and supplemented. The all-people movement to carry out the war invalids and fallen heroes policy has not been carried out evenly in various localities and has not yet been able to motivate a broad section of the people belonging to all strata to take part in this movement. A number of backlogged problems in the task regarding war invalids and the families of fallen heroes have not been settled completely. All these have been a major source of concern for the entire party and people.

Dear comrades: While still alive, Uncle Ho used to urge us to show our fidelity, propriety, altruism, and affection for war invalids and fallen heroes and to make war invalids and the families of fallen heroes sufficient materially and happy morally so they can continue to render their useful services to society.

The resolution of the seventh party congress affirmed: Concerning oneself with caring for disabled and sick soldiers, the families of fallen heroes, and those people with meritorious deeds toward the revolution constitutes the responsibility of both the state and the people.

We should promptly introduce the system of all-people contributions to the Gratitude Fund. We should strive to attain our goal to ensure that by 1992, all benefit policy recipients will be guaranteed a material living standard equal to or even higher than the average living standard of the ordinary people in the same villages or wards where the war invalids are residing. At the same time, efforts should be made to improve the cultural and spiritual life of war invalids of both sexes.

To achieve the above aim, the state should promptly revise and supplement its war invalids and fallen heroes policy by achieving a harmony between the economic policy and the welfare policy toward invalids and the families of fallen heroes.

Party committee chelons, the administration, the Fatherland Front Committees, and mass organizations at all levels should really care for and create conditions for disabled and sick soldiers and the families of fallen heroes to stabilize their lives in all aspects, to develop production, and to make their contributions to the society.

Advisory branches should help the state promptly supplement and perfect a number of relevant economic and welfare policies along the direction of giving priority treatment to policy recipients in various domains such as employment, land allocation, tax exemption, education, medical treatment, travel, and so forth. The state should pay more attention to solving those backlogged problems regarding war invalids and fallen heroes and the families of fallen heroes. It is necessary to basically complete one of the current pressing demands for relocating the graves of fallen heroes, building and renovating war dead cemeteries. Efforts should be made to ensure that all villages have an epitaphic monument with inscriptions describing the meritorious deeds of their respective fallen heroes.

We should promptly issue a decree on caring for those with meritorious deeds and should immediately solve the question of increasing the allowances for a number of targeted people as the state budget permits.

We should plan and allocate appropriate budgets for the task of caring for various policy recipients.

On this meaningful celebration of the 45th War Invalids and Fallen Heroes Day, I call on compatriots and combatants nationwide to foster what you have gained in the past in order to maintain and develop various movements to care for war invalids, the families of fallen heroes, and those people with meritorious deeds toward the revolution.

It is hoped that disabled and sick soldiers and the families of fallen heroes will continue to foster your revolutionary heroism, uphold your self-help spirit, overcome difficulties, develop your capabilities if you are to join the people in making contributions for national reconstruction.

I wish you—representatives of disabled and sick soldiers and of the families of fallen heroes—good health and happiness.

Bui Thien Ngo Receives War Invalids, Families

BK0708054592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] On 29 July, a delegation of the war invalids and families of fallen soldiers, currently attending the second national conference of typical war invalids, visited the Ministry of the Interior. On hand to welcome the delegation were Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau, secretary of the party committee of the Police Department, and minister of interior, as well as many other leading cadres of the ministry.

Representatives of war invalids and families of fallen soldiers briefed the minister on their efforts to overcome difficulties and hardships to contribute to national construction and maintaining social order and safety in their localities.

Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, thanked and commended these war invalids and families of the fallen soldiers for their great efforts and valuable contributions to the cause of national liberation in the past and the current socialist construction in our country. He urged echelons of the Police Department to pay more attention to war invalids and families of the fallen soldiers to help them contribute more efforts for the fatherland.

Vo Tran Chi Meets New Assembly Deputies

BK0608135192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's issue, the paper SAIGON GIAI PHONG frontpages a report saying that on the afternoon of 26 July, the Ho Chi Minh City committee for the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly and the standing bodies of the city party committee, fatherland front committee, people's council, and people's committee organized a cordial get-together with candidates running for the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly in the city.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the city party committee, congratulated the newly elected deputies and maintained that National Assembly deputies' vitality rests with their relations with voters. On behalf of candidates and deputies elected to the Ninth National Assembly, Doctor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong pledged everyone's determination to satisfactorily carry out their duties as people's deputies.

National Assembly Official on Election Results

BK0708012692 Hanoi VNA in English 1310 GMT 6 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 6—The head of the Office of the National Assembly and the State Council, Vu Mao, called a press conference here yesterday to report on the results of the general elections to the 9th National Assembly last July 19, 1992.

He said that 99.08 percent of registered voters went to the polls to elect 393 deputies from a total of 601 candidates. Among the 393 deputies, 18.32 percent are women, 4.8 percent are working in the industrial sector, 14.8 percent in the agricultural sector, 56.23 percent are intellectuals, and 8.40 percent are not members of the Communist Party.

105 were re-elected from the Eighth National Assembly.

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